

No 63,666

Customs raid at Heathrow

Iraqi expelled after nuclear triggers plot

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

British and American Customs officers yesterday foiled an attempt to smuggle trigger devices for nuclear bombs on to an Iraqi airliner.

Five people were arrested at Heathrow and in Surrey. One, an Iraqi businessman, was issued with deportation papers. He is expected to leave the country in a few days after he has been interviewed.

The 40 triggers seized yesterday were dummies, specially made in Massachusetts for an 18-month undercover operation, code-named Argus, which began in southern California.

The businessman to be deported is Mr Omar Latif, who is married with two children. He had a visa and had been in Britain for some time. The others arrested were an Iraqi-born naturalized Briton, a Lebanese, and a woman and a man of Middle East extraction, both with British passports. All five were being held at a Customs interrogation centre in London last night.

US Customs said an indictment was being held in sealed envelope at a Californian federal district court in San Diego in connection with Operation Argus. The charges would not yet be made public.

The Home Office said Mr Latif was being deported on grounds "conducive to the public good for reasons of national security and for other reasons of a political nature connected with attempted

breaches of legislation governing the export of strategic goods from the UK."

The whole operation was being treated yesterday with some sensitivity because of the political implications. Mr Azmi Shafiq Al-Salhi, the Iraqi ambassador, was summoned to the Foreign Office and told of the deportation notice served on Mr Latif. Mr Gerald Kaufman, Shadow Foreign Secretary, demanded a Government statement but this was refused.

Relations between London and Baghdad are already seriously strained after the hanging of Mr Farzad Bazoft, the British-based *Observer* journalist, accused of spying.

The Prime Minister has firmly ruled out any exchange of prisoners between Britain and Iraq after the arrests in spite of suggestions from some MPs that there might have been a deal involving Ms Daphne Parish the nurse jailed for 15 years in Iraq for helping Mr Bazoft.

Although it is generally accepted that Iraq is some years from developing a nuclear capability, several reports have surfaced recently claiming a nuclear weapons programme is close to completion. That has been denied by Baghdad.

Only last week, US officials were reported to have confirmed that Iraq was building a plant to produce uranium for nuclear weapons and Baghdad is involved in a development programme to build a medium-range ballistic missile system. It is believed that Iraq has been trying to establish a network of companies in Europe to procure equipment and expertise.

Operation Argus uncovered a plot to acquire 40 nuclear triggers, consisting of krytrons, electronic devices which help to detonate a nuclear bomb.

Only about six countries can make such devices, which cost between \$40 and \$60 each and are small enough to fit in a pocket. The triggers found yesterday were made specially by EG and G of Salem Massachusetts, the only company that makes krytrons. Its president, Mr Don Kerr, said it had provided dummies for US Customs. Had they been operative, they would have been sufficient to arm one or two nuclear bombs.

The triggers had been in a Heathrow cargo warehouse for several days, having been flown in from the United

States. Customs officers kept the boxes under surveillance and made the arrests once one of the suspects came forward to sign the necessary export documents. The devices were to have been loaded on an Iraqi Airways Boeing 747, flight number IA238, due to leave for Baghdad at 9.55 am. The two arrested at Heathrow were said to be connected with the Iraqi Airways counter.

Operation Argus involved long periods of surveillance by both US and British Customs. The US officers who were first alerted to the alleged plot tipped off their British counterparts when it became clear that the devices were being routed through this country.

Trade in the triggers is prohibited with certain countries under the 1989 Export of Goods (Control) Order. The regulations, drawn up by the 17 member states of the Co-ordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (Cocom), deny regimes such as Iraq access to materials with possible uses in the development of nuclear and chemical weapons.

Israeli strategic experts estimate it would take Iraq five to 10 years to build an atomic weapon, which combined with its achievements in surface-to-surface missile technology, could add a new dimension to Middle East conflicts.

In 1981, Israeli aircraft destroyed an unfinished atomic plant near Baghdad which Israel alleged would be used to produce nuclear arms.

Britain has been concerned in the past about an extensive network of companies set up here by Iraq as a way of acquiring military equipment and skills. But as Iraq's third biggest trading partner, Britain has also been keen to preserve relations and influence in an area where links with Syria, Libya and Iran have been cut.

The Government ordered limited reprisals after Mr Bazoft's execution, including sending home eight Iraqis undergoing military training at Sandhurst and Portsmouth; but refrained from breaking diplomatic links or imposing trade sanctions. More than 10,000 Britons work in Iraq.

Last year the Government blocked a £300 million deal to sell 60 Hawk military trainer jets to Iraq amid fears that the move would threaten chances of restoring relations with Iran.

Leading article, page 15

Bank chief says most ERM conditions met

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

THE Governor of the Bank of England, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, yesterday distanced himself from the Prime Minister's remarks in the Commons this week on the European Monetary System.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton told the House of Commons Treasury Select Committee that most of the conditions for the entry to the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System had been met — apart from the convergence of inflation rates.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton also said a rise in base rates "could well be more than we need."

Rates defended, page 25

Rittner quits Arts Council in funding clash

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent



Mr Luke Rittner after resigning yesterday

MR LUKE Rittner, secretary general of the Arts Council, has resigned over the Government changes to arts funding and the drastic re-shaping of the Arts Council they entail.

At a meeting with staff yesterday, before the monthly meeting of the Arts Council, Mr Rittner announced that he felt unable to implement the changes. He leaves on April 30, after seven years in office.

Mr Peter Palumbo, the chairman who succeeded Lord Rees-Mogg in the honorary post a year ago, said in a statement that he had accepted the resignation "with sadness". "Luke Rittner is somebody who will be missed at the Arts Council, not least for the integrity and loyalty and his excellent relations with staff."

Mr Rittner declined to comment

yesterday but according to Arts Council sources he and Mr Palumbo have been at odds for some time, and have disagreed over the proposed changes.

Mr Rittner was surprised by the announcement from Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, two weeks ago that he had decided to devolve responsibility for arts to the regions in the wake of a report by Mr Richard Wilding, former head of the Office of Arts and Libraries.

According to some estimates, the move could cut the Arts Council staff of 170 by up to two thirds.

Mr Rittner is known to have felt that the decision would lead to an erosion of the "arms length" principle of arts funding by delegating responsibility for many of the Arts Council's clients to regional arts bodies. The appointment of Mr Tim Mason, director of the Scottish Arts Council, to oversee the devolution process over the next three years

effectively removed control of the process from the secretary general as administrative head of the Arts Council. However, it is believed that Mr Palumbo is in general agreement with the proposals.

Mr Rittner, who is 42, succeeded Sir Roy Shaw as secretary general in 1983 after seven years as the founding director of the Association of Business Sponsorship of the Arts.

He is widely credited with saving the Arts Council in the mid-1980s when its future was in doubt and with installing the principle of sponsorship incentives in the government arts funding ethic.

Mr Rittner's deputy, Mr Anthony Everitt, will be acting secretary general until a new appointment is made. Equity and the Federation of Theatre Unions said they were "disturbed" over the resignation and would be seeking a meeting with Mr Rittner.

Capping to affect very few councils

By Robin Oakley

MINISTERS believe fewer than a dozen councils may have their community charges capped when the list is announced next week by Mr Chris Patten, the Environment Secretary. This compares with predictions of more than 100.

Mr Patten is said to be anxious to keep the list to a minimum, suspecting that the exercise could be counter-productive, with capped authorities winning maximum publicity by cutting services in the most sensitive areas.

Yesterday he described Labour claims that he was drawing up the list of capped authorities to exclude Conservative councils as "tripe", adding that any decisions he made might have to stand up in court.

In response to the urging of Mr Nicholas Ridley, his predecessor, and others that the verdict on the level of community charges should be left to voters in the May local elections, Mr Patten insisted that ministers still had a responsibility to individual charge-payers living under councils choosing to spend excessively.

The minister is expected almost immediately to begin talks with Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on remedial measures to be taken to lessen the unpopularity of the tax.

Their talks will be well in advance of the normal detailed discussions in the public expenditure round.

Poll tax rebels, page 2

Leading article, page 15

Liverpool defiance, page 24

TV links four to pub bombing

By Stewart Tendler and Edward Gorman

FOUR Irishmen who allegedly organized the Birmingham public house bombings were named last night by Granada TV's *World in Action* programme.

A fifth man, one of two who helped to plant the bombs, was not named for unspecified "security reasons."

The programme — bound to fuel fresh controversy over the conviction of six men for the 1974 explosions in which 21 people died — went ahead after weeks of debate and a day of bitter legal argument in Dublin when one of the men named tried to have his identity withheld.

Earlier, the Independent Broadcasting Authority said it had no objection to the screen-

ing, so that last night's broadcast placed the names in the public domain.

One of the bomb planters was named as Michael Christopher Anthony Hayes. The programme claimed he later helped to plant the Hyde Park and Regent's Park bombings in 1982, the explosion at Harrods in 1983, and the blast at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, in 1984. Those attacks led to the deaths of 22 people. The three other men named were: Seamus McLoughlin, allegedly the planner, known as "Belfast Jimmy"; Michael Murray, said to have telephoned the warning; and James Francis Gavin, alias Jimmy Kelly, described as the bomb-maker.

The programme makers said Murray was tried with the

Birmingham Six and sentenced to 12 years for other offences. Gavin is serving life in the Irish Republic for murder. All the members of the team are now said to be in Ireland. The bombs were made up, according to the programme, at a house in Bordesley Green, Birmingham, and put into a bag and a suitcase.

The bombers walked in to Birmingham to their targets. Although the telephones for making the warning calls had been checked hours before the explosions, they were broken when they were needed and the man making the warning had to find another one.

World in Action said it has received a copy of what it believes is a West Midlands Special Branch report describ-

ing an interview with an IRA informant in 1975, detailing the IRA structure in the Midlands and naming Gavin and Hayes as taking part in the public house bombings.

The informant was interviewed after the six were convicted and before their first appeal. He was not involved in the bombings.

The programme is the latest instalment in a campaign attempting to prove the innocence of the Birmingham Six backed by the *World in Action* team and Mr Chris Mullin, Labour MP for Sunderland South. Mr Ray Fitzwater, the executive producer, said material would be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Home Office.

Police statement, page 3

Thatcher phones over Lithuania

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

MRS Thatcher urged the need for restraint on all sides in Lithuania during a 50-minute telephone conversation yesterday with President Gorbachev, and is believed to have repeated to him her view that force was not the way to solve the problem.

Meanwhile, today's editions of *The Times* carry a letter from Mr Leonid Zamyatin, the Soviet Ambassador in London, warning of "chaos with unpredictable consequences" if the Lithuanians continue to maintain their independence.

The letter insists that the declaration of independence by the Baltic state is in "direct contradiction" with the Constitution of the Soviet Union and violates law and order.

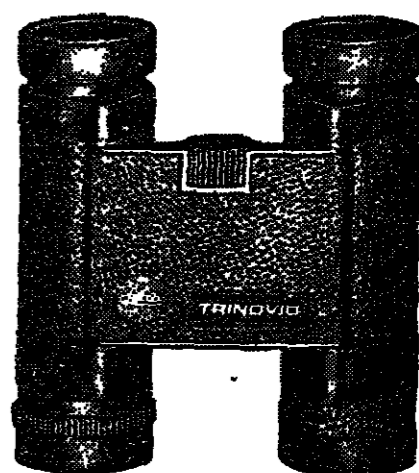
It says that the Lithuanian leadership has acted "recklessly" and has demonstrated

Continued on page 24, col 2

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Labour bars rebel councillors over poll tax campaign

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR leaders last night launched a concerted effort to distance the party from the growing campaign of civil disobedience over the poll tax.

The party's national executive committee moved to disqualify Labour councillors who have insisted on campaigning for non-payment or non-setting of the poll tax from standing in the May local elections.

New moves are also expected to dissociate the party from the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation, which is campaigning for mass non-payment of the poll tax.

Conservative attempts to link the Labour Party with the demonstrations are felt by the Labour leadership to have failed. However, with the community charge seen as such a large electoral asset for Labour, the leadership will continue to make every effort to make plain that the party is opposed to law-breaking and to repudiate the campaigners, including some Labour MPs, who support non-payment.

The executive yesterday disqualifies three Labour councillors from Haringey, north London, from standing in the local elections.

Miss Martha Osamor, Mr Vince Gillespie and Mr Ron Blanchard had insisted on continuing to campaign on non-payment and non-setting of the poll tax in spite of a

decision of the local government committee that the Labour group should not do so.

It decided similar action against the group of Liverpool Labour councillors who were expected last night to vote at a meeting of the city council against setting the poll tax, in defiance of a Labour group decision earlier this week. Several seemed certain to be disqualified.

The executive was also told that the Labour group had bowed to the leadership's threat to disband its local government committee and write its manifesto for the local elections. It had wanted to write into it that non-payers of the poll tax would not be prosecuted, but has now dropped the idea.

Meanwhile, moves towards ending the trade union block vote in the selection of Labour parliamentary candidates were approved against opposition from the left.

The national executive also moved towards ending the system under which MPs must automatically face re-election even if their local parties are happy with their performance.

Mr Tony Benn, who led the campaign to introduce re-election in the early 1980s, declared at the meeting that the changes "would break our links with the unions". He said that the executive was

agreeing to the "death of mandatory re-election".

A three-month consultation process is to take place on proposals to leave selection of parliamentary candidates solely in the hands of party members in a one-member one-vote system.

Unions would merely retain their influence over nominations and shortlisting of candidates.

The consultation document, to be issued to party members, states: "The electoral college does not produce uniform or consistent democratic practice in similar constituencies. It has been subject to widespread practical criticism from those who have to operate it and the use of the college has increased the demand for the movement for one-member one-vote."

Mr Neil Kinnock said: "The principle of accountability of MPs must be upheld, but not by forcing parties to hold a contest they clearly do not want or threatening the majority of the Labour government in Westminster by tying MPs up in a round of unnecessary meetings."

Under the plans, party members in a constituency are likely to be invited in a ballot to say whether they want to hold a re-election contest.

Liberal policies, page 6
Leading article, page 15

Icing on a birthday cake

DENZIL MCNEELANCE



MR Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, cuts a cake to celebrate his 48th birthday at a Shadow Cabinet meeting at the Commons yesterday. The wording on the cake - "You're the right side of 50 in age and in the polls" - referred to last weekend's public opinion poll for the *The Observer* in which the party reached 57 points, its highest rating.

Iraqi nuclear plans 'are well advanced'

By Michael Knipe, Diplomatic Correspondent

There have been a number of leaked intelligence reports during the past two years suggesting that Iraq is once again well advanced on a crash programme to build nuclear warheads.

These followed Israel's air raid in 1981 on the French-built Osirak nuclear plant outside Baghdad when laser-guided bombs destroyed the reactor and, what the Israelis said, a secret uranium enrichment plant.

A year ago, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq said, in a speech marking a visit to Iraq by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, that the Saudis were helping to finance the rebuilding of the reactor. According to Israeli sources at the time, the Iraqis were planning to have nuclear weapons tested and ready for use within two years.

The Israelis said the costs of the programme were being met by Saudi Arabia and Pakistan and that a number of freelance technology companies were involved. The Iraqis were also reported to have about 25 lbs of enriched uranium suitable for making bombs which the Israelis said was being used to construct a number of small warheads.

Iraq's nuclear programme took on even greater significance in December when it launched a 48-ton, three-stage rocket, called Al-Abed (the Worshipper) making it the first Arab country to possess such a home-produced ballistic missile.

The 80ft rocket was estimated to have a range of over 1,000 miles. Its launch gave Iraq the capability to deliver nuclear warheads and caused military analysts to warn of the destabilizing effect of the spread of such missiles in the Middle East.

Two weeks ago the American television network ABC showed photographs and construction plans for what it said were three sites for missile development, testing and production near Baghdad and quoted United States officials as confirming that the building of the uranium production plant was under way.

ABC said various European companies, including Siemens of West Germany, had given vital technical assistance.

Last year Iraqi agents were detected trying to buy vacuum pumps and a special steel used in the uranium enrichment process.

The British based *Mid-East Markets* newsletter said last December that Iraq had established a network of companies in Europe to procure equipment and expertise and was receiving Chinese assistance in its efforts to manufacture a nuclear bomb.

The trigger devices seized at Heathrow were said to be small enough to fit inside a pocket.

● The sophisticated nuclear triggers, known as krytrons, are the ultra high-speed electrical switches that start the extremely complex process necessary to achieve a nuclear explosion.

A nuclear warhead resembles a hollow ball of conventional explosives surrounding a plutonium core.

A nuclear blast occurs when the conventional explosives are fired, exerting tremendous pressure inwards on the core, which compresses and goes "critical".

The triggers, similar to advanced switches, fire the detonators with a very high-speed pulse of electrical current in microseconds. These in turn set off the conventional explosives.

Timing is critical because the detonators must be fired in precisely the correct sequence so that the right amount of pressure is exerted on the plutonium core.

As a result, the krytrons are crucial for successful detonation and represent sophisticated electronics and engineering beyond the capability of most nations.

There is thought to be only one manufacturer of krytrons in the world, EG&G of Salem, Massachusetts.

The US authorities have thwarted two previous attempts - one by Israel and one by Pakistan - to smuggle krytrons out of the United States.

Defence analysts yesterday speculated that Iraq's attempts to acquire nuclear weapon triggers meant it was much closer to building a nuclear missile than widely thought.

It is thought the Iraqis would be most unlikely to try to smuggle in the trigger systems before ensuring they had sufficient material to build a warhead.



Close-up of the nuclear trigger mechanism

Jury gives £15,000 for 'IRA article'

An Irish farmer who claimed an article in *The Sunday Times* linked him wrongly with the IRA was awarded damages of IR£15,000 by a High Court jury in Dublin yesterday.

After an absence of 3½ hours the jury awarded the damages to Mr Patrick Murphy but made no award to his brother Thomas who had also claimed libel.

A decision on costs will be made today.

Mr Patrick Murphy, of Crossmaglen, Co Armagh, and Mr Thomas Murphy, who lives south of the Border near Dundalk, Co Louth brought

the action against Times Newspapers, Mr Andrew Neil, editor of *The Sunday Times*, and four journalists.

They said they were libelled in an article published on June 30, 1985, concerning IRA plans for a bombing campaign against 12 resorts in Britain.

The brothers said a reference to a "Slab Murphy" as a new operations commander for the IRA was taken by some to refer to one of them.

The jury was told Murphy was a common name where the brothers lived and they had inherited the nickname "Slab" from their father to distinguish them.

Terror group banned

Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday signed an order banning a small but fanatical republican terrorist organization which has recently reorganized and which murdered a Protestant man in Belfast last week (Edward Gorman writes).

Security sources believe Mr Billy McCutcheon was shot by two masked gunmen of the Irish People's Liberation Organization and that his death may be the first in a possible series of assassinations by the group, which has been inactive for nearly 12 months.

Air fare warning

The Duty Free Confederation, a pressure group fighting proposals by the European Commission to abolish duty-free shopping for inter-European travellers, claimed that the move would mean air fares rising by over 10 per cent. The EC is proposing the measure as part of its moves towards fiscal harmonization in 1992.

Insecticide tests

Genetically engineered virus-based insecticides which stop caterpillars eating crops have been successfully tested in the laboratory, the Natural Environment Research Council's Institute of Virology in Oxford said yesterday.

Jail plea won

Mr Kenneth Weldon, a former Leeds jail inmate who claims he was beaten by prison officers and locked naked in a cell overnight, won the right in the Court of Appeal yesterday to sue the Home Office for false imprisonment.

Court delays

A steady rise in the proportion of defendants pleading "not guilty", as well as shortages of court staff, are causing growing delays in the time taken to process indictable cases through magistrates' courts, Home Office statistics show.

Radiation award

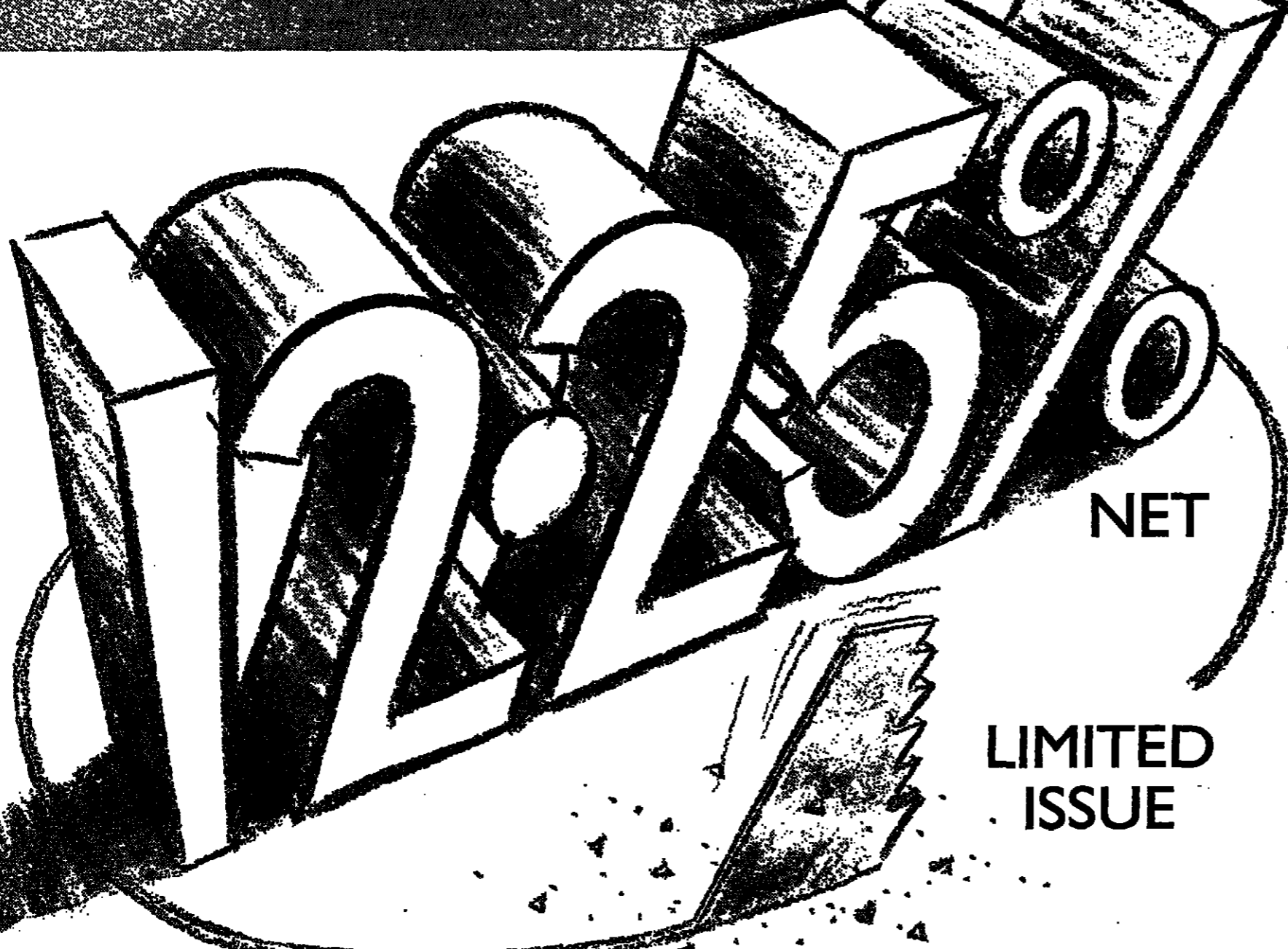
Mrs Ruby Bouic, aged 65, who suffered "catastrophic" injuries from radiation overdose during routine cancer treatment, was awarded £455,000 agreed damages against Wirral Health Authority at the High Court yesterday.

Grant increase

After the recent storms and floods the Government is increasing the rate of grant available on future emergency spending by local councils. It will rise from 75 per cent to 85 per cent above certain thresholds. The threshold above which grant will become payable has been fixed at £2 per adult for each area.

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Birmingham Six

Bombings police rebut the claims of campaigners

By Craig Seton

WEST Midlands police, the force that investigated the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings, yesterday issued a detailed rebuttal of arguments advanced by campaigners for the release of the six men convicted of 21 murders.

The statement is the most forceful and detailed rebuttal of claims made on behalf of the Birmingham Six since the intensification of the campaign for their release, and was issued in advance of the Granada Television programme *Who Bombed Birmingham*, which was shown last night. The force will comment on that today.

The statement rejects claims that the six men had confessions beaten out of them by police officers, and criticizes campaigners for being selective in the facts they use. It also makes clear that "new matters" to be investigated by Devon and Cornwall police cover a narrow field.

The statement points out that a sustained IRA bombing campaign in the West Midlands in 1973 and 1974 ceased after the arrest of the Birmingham Six. It says nobody had ever claimed that they were the only ones involved in the bombings.

The statement deals with seven issues:

1. The Devon and Cornwall police inquiry: The 1987 inquiry by Devon and Cornwall police into allegations that the six men had confessions beaten from them while in custody at police stations in Morecambe, Lancashire, and Birmingham. The exhaustive inquiry found no corroborative evidence to support the allegations. It said the evi-

dence showed the allegations by the men "could not be true".

2. New Evidence: During that inquiry, issues recorded as "new evidence" were explored and tested later at the Court of Appeal, where Lord Lane commented that the longer the case went on, the more convinced he and his fellow judges were of the guilt of the six.

3. Appearance at court — the world's press as a jury: When the six men first appeared at Birmingham magistrates' court from police custody, the court was packed with the world's press and media, the legal profession, the public, police, civilians and magistrates. "Despite all the efforts of the campaigners and the publicity generated about the case since then, not one person who was present at that time has come forward to give evidence that any of these men showed any signs of beatings except Walker, who had a slight black eye." The statement says Walker told a duty solicitor he had suffered the black eye accidentally. All the men were later taken to Winson Green Prison and remained in the custody of the prison service.

4. Why did the IRA bombing campaign stop after the arrests? On August 29, 1973, two bombs went off in Solihull, West Midlands, and over the next 15 months, 47 devices exploded in the West Midlands, all attributable to the IRA. In November 1974, a further nine occurred, including one that killed James McDade as he planted it in Coventry. On November 21, the Tavern in the Town and the Mulberry Bush in Bir-

mingham were bombed, killing 21, and the following morning the six men were arrested. The statement says: "Since that date there have been no bombs placed in Birmingham attributable to the IRA except those discovered at Royal Mail House in the early 1980s."

5. The campaign: The statement says: "The campaigners on behalf of the convicted men have been selective in the facts used to support their campaign. Those facts are used by them to influence public opinion. It seems to us where the facts disagree with their theories, they are summarily dismissed or used as evidence of police malpractice or cover-up. Many of the people presently vocally supporting the campaign have no personal knowledge of the case and are relying on second or third-hand versions of events."

6. Nothing to hide: The statement says there had been two detailed police inquiries into the issue and two Court of Appeal hearings. "Even the campaigners for these men have not been able to find major matters of substance to support their case."

7. Other parties involved: The statement says the methods of the IRA in 1974 were totally different from today. "The present day IRA has a cellular structure which is far more sophisticated. In 1974 there is clear evidence from IRA operations throughout the country that many of the people involved were unsophisticated and untutored. Nobody has ever said that the men convicted of the Birmingham pub bombings were the only ones involved."

Friendship amid the slapstick

CHRIS HARRIS



"Mr Woo" takes a break from humour to meet Lacey Gander, aged five, while attending a clowns' convention at Bognor Regis, West Sussex. The event, which features performers from throughout Europe, reaches its climax on April 1

Judges back church CTC

By David Tytler

Education Editor

WHEN Dr Robert Runcie leaves Lambeth Palace as Archbishop of Canterbury he will be able to welcome the first City Technology College sponsored by the Church of England with the blessing of the earthly High Court.

Two judges yesterday refused to accept a "technical reason" to block the decision of the governors of the 900-pupil Bacon's Church of England co-educational comprehensive school to turn it into a CTC.

The Inner London Education Authority, which will cease to exist at the end of this week, had joined the London Borough of Southwark in asking for the CTC to be stopped because of a "pecuniary interest" of one of the governors, a local clergyman, the Rev Percy Gray, who voted in favour of the proposal. His wife and son had both worked for the authority; she as a classroom assistant, he as an history teacher.

Mr Justice Brown accepted that the legal bounds had been broken but said that he could not "sacrifice the children's future on the altar of the rule's sanctity".

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith said: "I cannot believe that it is the duty of the court to insist upon the letter of the law in these circumstances."

The judges' ruling marked one of the final defeats in its battle against the Government's policy of introducing the controversial CTCs.

Animal rights campaigners claimed a victory last night after a leading examination board announced that students would no longer be required to dissect animals as part of A-Level biology examinations (Douglas Brown writes).

Animal Aid, which numbers the comedian Spike Milligan and the novelist Richard Adams among its patrons, heaped praise on the London University Schools Examination Board for its decision to drop dissections.

Under a new syllabus to be introduced from September, students will no longer be required to dissect a rat or mouse as part of the practical part of the A level.

A spokesman for the board conceded that the change had been prompted by pressure from pupils but added: "We felt it was time to bring the syllabus up to date."

The new syllabus would concentrate on "new" issues such as micro-biology, pollution and the environment.

One of the largest language schools in Bath is advising its students to stay indoors after dark after a number of attacks on them.

Quest English International has issued a formal warning to its students to stay indoors.

Mrs Rebecca Merriam, a director of the school, said: "We always used to be able to tell Bath as the safe city but now I have to warn all my students that it is very dangerous."

Last year six Quest students were attacked and had possessions stolen on the streets of Bath. Two weeks ago M. Thierry Benchemakh, a French student, was attacked in Englishcombe Lane. He had hospital treatment for a bruised face and ribs.

Mrs Merriam said: "It's a very tough issue; most of the problems stem from a culture clash."

Her students, aged between eight and 18, are being told that if they must go out they must return home before 10.30 pm and not to carry money unless it was essential.

Mrs Merriam conceded that her students were sometimes the instigators of the trouble but added: "I would advise them strongly not to get into tricky situations. We are also warning them to keep away from certain trouble spots."

Quest, which operates language schools in 14 other towns and cities in Britain, rates Bath as the most dangerous.

Chief Inspector Malcolm Gault, of Bath police, said: "We don't want to appear like total killjoys but these guidelines sound like very good advice to me."

Therapy urged for child abusers

By Quentin Cowdry

Home Affairs Correspondent

CHRONIC child abusers may be more likely to stop re-offending if they receive intensive community-based therapy rather than jail sentences, according to the early results of a controversial project.

Of the 15 male abusers who have undergone treatment in the last two years at a pioneering unit in London, none has re-offended. One found the therapy so hard that he deliberately incurred a prison sentence by leaving the course.

Under the scheme, offenders convicted of sexual offences with children receive therapy in group sessions for three years supervised by psychiatrists and probation officers, as an alternative to prison.

Experts will tell a conference on sexual offending at the Institute of Psychiatry at that Maudsley Hospital, south London, today that many abusers re-offend after being released because imprisonment increases their sense of isolation and low self-esteem.

Dr Gillian Mezey, a psychiatrist who helps run the project in east London, will argue that, while prosecution is essential for child abusers, a better course in many cases lies in intensive treatment in the community.

Treatment is designed to counter the chief psychological "distortions" suffered by abusers: their refusal, even on conviction, to accept their guilt; their tendency to see children as objects; and their inability to grasp the damage inflicted on victims.

Two more cases of bogus social workers trying to gain access to children on the pretext of investigating cases of abuse were yesterday passed to the team of detectives already dealing with 10 such incidents (Peter Davenport writes).

The latest incident happened at Elland, near Leeds, yesterday morning when a woman called on a grandmother who was looking after her 11-week-old grandson. The caller claimed she had an appointment to take the child to a special baby unit.

When the grandmother said she was waiting for a health visitor to call, the woman left. Meanwhile, on Tuesday, a man and a woman called at a house in Spenborough, and told a mother they had information that her pre-school age son had been abused and they wished to examine him. They left after being told the boy was not at home.

Police said the description of the woman involved resembled that issued by South Yorkshire police last week of a suspect they wished to trace.

Rise in violence and sex crime figures expected

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

FIGURES due to be released today will indicate that the overall rate of crime in Britain is again on the increase, providing further embarrassment for ministers who have always prized their record on law and order issues.

Whitehall officials signalled last night that the Home Office statistics will show that recorded crime increased significantly in 1989, reversing the advance made by the year before when the total fell by 4 per cent, the first big drop since the 1950s.

The figures are expected to show sharp increases in recorded violent and sexual offences, which officials accept cannot be entirely explained by improved reporting of certain especially sensitive crimes such as rape and child abuse. Ministers will argue that much of the "real" rise in violent crime relates to minor assaults, where injuries are slight.

The Home Office trumpeted the overall drop in recorded crime in 1988 as a sign that the Government's mixture of tough sanctions for the most serious offences and emphasis on crime prevention to tackle property offences was working. They were particularly pleased by the sharp decline in domestic burglaries.

A clear sign that the Home Office's 1989 statistics are to be disappointing came yesterday with the publication of the Metropolitan Police's annual crime figures. They showed that the overall recorded crime rate in London rose by 5 per cent in 1989, reversing the downward trend of the previous two years.

Virtually all the main categories of crime in the capital apparently increased last year, with recorded sexual attacks increasing by 23 per cent, vandalism by 5 per cent, burglary by 4 per cent, theft by 4 per cent and fraud and forgery by 8 per cent. Police

were particularly disappointed about the figures for burglaries, regarded as a prime problem by the public. Some 148,900 were recorded last year, 51,000 of which involved domestic properties.

The total for recorded crimes increased by 36,000 to 756,300. This was higher than the figure for 1987 or 1988 but 12,200 fewer than the 1986 total.

Recorded rapes increased by 11 per cent to 896 last year, but police emphasized that a woman in London ran only a 1 million to 1.5 million-to-one risk of becoming a rape victim. Rape has become better reported over the past 10 years as victims have become more confident that complaints will be sympathetically handled.

Police are also taking comfort in the fact that 7,800 more crimes — a 6 per cent rise — were cleared up last year and that recorded robberies involving personal property fell by 6 per cent and muggings by 14 per cent. Arrests, however, rose to a new record of 111,400, an increase of 2,700, or 2 per cent.

Mr Geoffrey McLean, the Metropolitan Police's assistant commissioner, said it was a "great pity" that police had been unable to repeat the performance of the previous two years but claimed that much of the increase stemmed from better reporting of certain crimes and more thorough investigation of them by detectives.

Crime remained unacceptably high but people should not allow "unreasonable" fear to spoil the quality of their lives.

Violent crimes, it was emphasized, accounted for just 4.3 per cent of the total. Moreover, clear-up rates in this area had risen by 2 per cent to 59 per cent in 1989. Less than one-in-seven of these crimes involved serious injury.

Broker sought buyers for Guinness

A STOCKBROKER said yesterday that the payment of inducements to maintain a firm's share price was against his company's principles.

But Mr Scott Dobbie, whose company Wood Mackenzie acted for Guinness during the £2.7 billion bid, agreed that he had approached clients to buy Guinness shares.

Mr Dobbie told Southwark Crown Court he did not know that £25 million was being secretly offered to Guinness supporters. "It would have gone against all the principles we stood for."

The former Guinness chairman and chief executive Ernest Saunders is alleged to have masterminded an illegal share support operation in which indemnities and success fees were paid to supporters.

Mr Dobbie said his firm resigned in July 1986 because it was unhappy with proposals to reshape the management structure, and because Sir Thomas Risk, governor of the Bank of Scotland, was overlooked as chairman of the new Guinness board.

Mr Dobbie said a rift had developed between Mr Saunders and Wood Mackenzie when Argyll sold Guinness stock to push down the share price.

Mr Dobbie said he had taken part in presentations seeking to recruit support for the Guinness cause, which he said was normal practice.

Mr Saunders, Mr Gerald Ronson, the chairman of Heron International, the stockbroker Anthony Parnes, and the financier Sir Jack Lyons, deny 24 counts of theft, false accounting, and breaches of the Companies Act.

The trial continues today.

Surgeon's 'obsession' was to help patients

By John Young

A LEADING transplant surgeon was said yesterday to be "obsessed with a compulsion" to help patients with end-stage renal failure.

Mr Michael Bewick was an "action man" and not a philosopher, he was not a man who stopped to think, Mr Roger Bell, QC, told a disciplinary hearing of the General Medical Council in London.

Mr Bell was making his closing address in defence of Mr Bewick on the 30th day of the hearing by the GMC professional conduct committee of charges that Mr Bewick, Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist, and Dr Raymond Crockett, a Harley Street physician, were guilty of serious professional misconduct in connection with the alleged sale of kidneys by four Turkish donors.

Some surgeons obviously enjoyed a little philosophy, Mr Bell said, but Mr Bewick was not one of them.

During his evidence to the hearing, whenever he was asked a question that had a reflective twist, he either was "a bit stumped" or wandered off the point.

"His real obsession is to find as many cadaveric kidneys as he can, and to transplant as many cadaveric or living donor kidneys as possible into patients with end-

stage renal failure," Mr Bell said.

It was fair to assume that Dr Crockett, who had referred the transplant patients to Mr Bewick for surgery, was aware of Mr Bewick's working practices and that he did not ask questions, Mr Bell said.

It was also fair to assume Dr Crockett knew Mr Bewick believed that payments to donors were unacceptable, and that he trusted him and had a high regard for him as a doctor.

Any suggestions that Mr Bewick had acted for financial gain flew in the face of all the committee had heard about him. He was an enormously dedicated man, and witnesses had spoken about his lack of interest in money.

Mr Leo Charles, QC, the legal assessor to the inquiry, said the four Turkish donors who gave evidence could not be legally classed as accomplices in the sale of kidneys since the doctors were not accused of committing any crime.

The committee was dealing with the question of an alleged breach of medical ethics.

But they could be treated as accomplices in that they had ample opportunity for collusion while staying in the country waiting to be called as witnesses. At least two of them

had instituted civil proceedings, which gave them a motive for exaggerating or falsifying evidence in the hope of obtaining damages.

It would be dangerous to convict on their evidence unless it was corroborated by independent sources.

However, corroboration existed, for example, in the evidence of Mr Kenneth Westall, a former employee of the National Kidney Centre, who said he had been asked to send a letter to the National Westminster Bank, St John's Wood, instructing payment to be made to Mr Ata Nur Kunter, one of three Turkish brothers alleged to have acted as "kidney brokers".

The manager of the bank had produced the letter in spite of denials that it had ever been sent.

An immigration officer had testified that he had telephoned Dr Crockett's surgery when two donors produced letters at the airport saying they had travelled to England for medical treatment, and that their "lie" had been confirmed.

The committee adjourned to consider the allegations; if any are found to be proven, the hearing will reconvene today or tomorrow to hear representations on whether they constitute misconduct.

Linley case verdict delay

By Michael Horsnell

THE jury in the Lord Linley libel case will resume its deliberation this morning after failing to reach a verdict last night.

The Queen's nephew is suing News (UK) Ltd, publishers of *Today*, over a story in the newspaper's gossip column last year which portrayed him as an upper class "lager lout" and alleged he had been banned from a London public house over a beer throwing incident. The

publishers have accepted that the story was wrong and the jury is assessing the level of damages News (UK) should pay and whether they should be exemplary.

In the High Court yesterday Mr Justice Michael Davies told the jury to forget Lord Linley was a member of the Royal Family and remember he was a citizen with rights.

The judge said it was not the most serious case of libel that had been tried recently and

told the jury: "No one is asking for football pools, telephone number sums."

Mr Gareth Williams, QC, for News (UK), said that although *Today* accepted the story was wrong it was not fabricated by the three journalists involved in producing it.

He said the source of the item was the manageress of the Ferret and Firkin public house in Chelsea Harbour, Mrs Carolyn Peacock.

Auditor condemns privatization of computer operation

By David Sapsted



Mr Stuart Randall: Called transfer "fraudulent"

A DAMNING report by a government-appointed auditor on the way a multi-million pound computer operation was handed over to a private company by a local authority led last night to calls for the resignation of an inner circle of five former chairmen of the Conservative-controlled council.

The calls were made at an extraordinary meeting of West Wiltshire District Council in Trowbridge held to discuss the auditors' interim report. Police will decide in the next few days whether to launch a criminal investigation into the firm, West Wiltshire Information Systems (WWIS), once regarded as a

model of the government drive to encourage local authorities to privatize services.

According to a report published by the Labour Party, the affair will have cost West Wiltshire taxpayers more than £20 million by 1994. Mr Stuart Randall, Labour home affairs spokesman, has branded it in the Commons a "fraudulent transfer".

WWIS was set up in July 1988 and has, effectively, taken over the council's lucrative sideline of selling computer software to other local authorities, including an innovative program for poll tax calculations.

More than 100 authorities were council customers and 30 had put

deposits on the poll tax program when WWIS began trading with Mr Gerald Garland, then the council's chief executive, as managing director and with its staff wholly from the council's computer department.

Under the agreement, council and company share the estimated £6.2 million profits from the poll tax program for five years, but the exact nature of the deal is the preserve of an inner core of councillors and officers involved in negotiations.

In an interim report last week, Mr Peter Day, the district auditor, questioned the legality of delegating the firm's establishment to this group and pointed to a potential conflict of interest when senior offi-

cers were using their positions to set up a company to their advantage. Mr Day advised the council to take independent legal advice.

In the second part of his report, he criticized the council's decision to allow its solicitors, Mr David Wilkie and Mr Richard Madden, to set themselves up as a private practice handling West Wiltshire's legal affairs for £75,000 a year more than it had cost "in house".

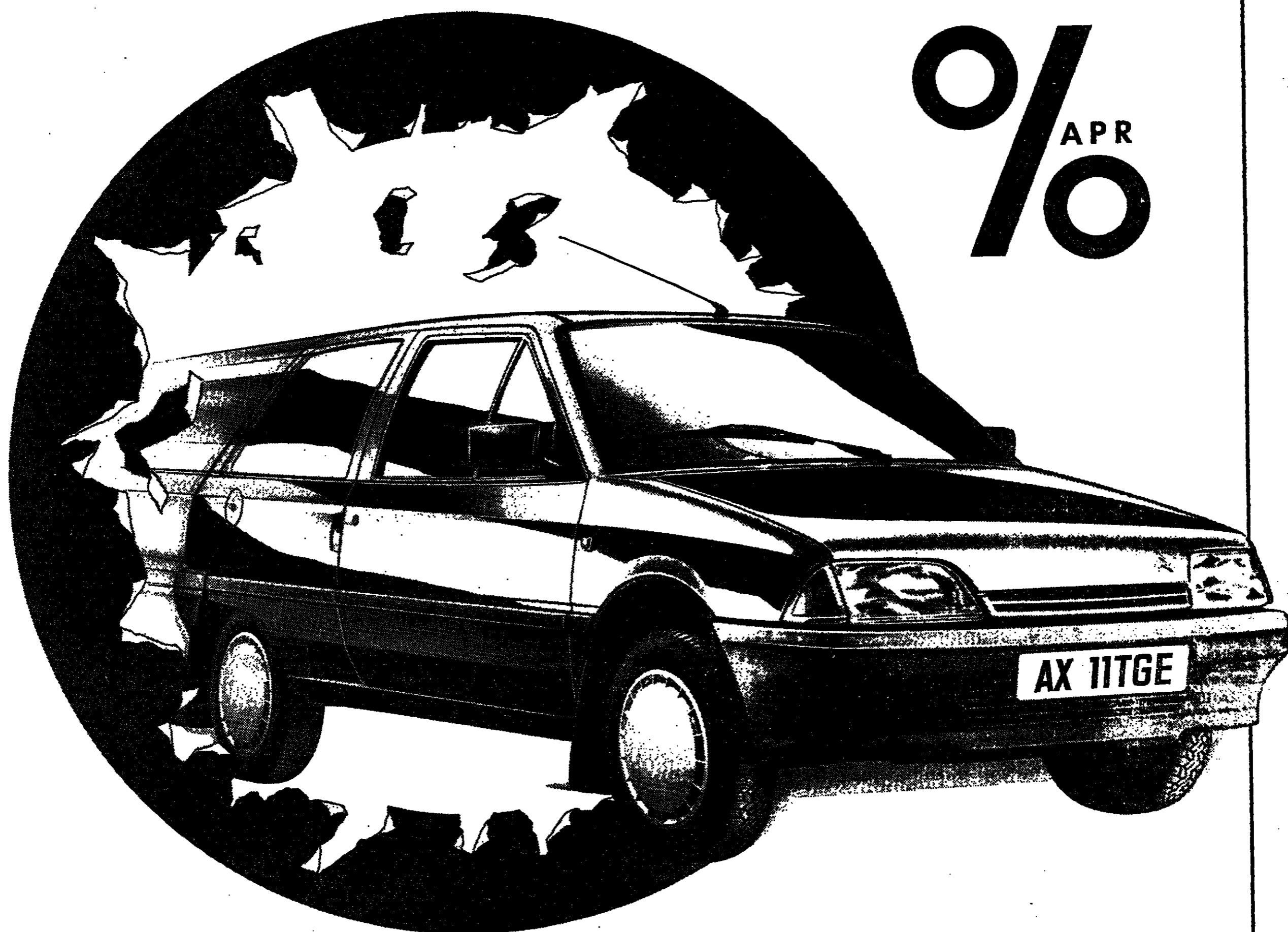
Mr Madden also purchased 100, 50p shares in WWIS when it was established. Most employees who transferred from the council bought 25 shares apiece while Mr Garland purchased 500 and two other senior officers at the time, Mr Ray Perkins,

the chief rating officer, and Mr Richard Gilbert, computer manager, bought 400 each.

The Labour Party report says the shares are now valued at £350 each by Coopers and Lybrand Deloitte, WWIS auditors.

Mr Donald Latham, who succeeded Mr Garland as chief executive in August last year, requested the Audit Commission to hold an inquiry but, in January he was suspended by the Mr Bruce Bennett, the council chairman, for "professional incompetence". After a stormy meeting of the management sub-committee, he was reinstated. Mr Bennett and two of senior councillors then resigned.

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INITIAL PAYMENT	£1309.85 20% deposit	£3274.71 50% deposit	£1309.85 20% deposit	£1309.85 20% deposit
MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF	£ 436.61	£ 136.44	£ 175.67	£ 143.65
FINANCE CHARGE	NIL	NIL	£1094.70	£1665.78
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Nurses' congress

Doctors reviving patients 'simply to avoid inquests'

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

DOCTORS are asking nurses to keep patients alive for 24 hours after hospital admission to avoid an inquest, nurses were told yesterday.

Delegates at the Royal College of Nursing Congress in Brighton were told the doctors had asked nurses to resuscitate very elderly patients to avoid the bureaucracy and paperwork involved in inquests.

Miss Sue Monk, a ward sister at Charing Cross Hospital, west London, said she had often found herself in the "iniquitous" situation of being requested by doctors to revive patients whether they thought it was worth it or not. If the patient died within 24 hours of admission, they would automatically be referred to the coroner, she said.

"What distresses me is that decisions about resuscitation within 24 hours are not based on the clinical state of the patient but on the 24-hour coroners' rule," Miss Monk said. "I was recently asked to resuscitate an unconscious 98-year-old woman and was met with incredulity from the medical staff when I questioned that decision."

Miss Christine Hancock, the college's general secretary, indicated the practice was

widespread and also occurred after operations when the same 24-hour rule applied. "Part of it is the inconvenience, but the other issue is that deaths risk being investigated and challenged by the coroner," Doctors feared that inquests could lead to the criticism of care management or possible litigation, she said.

However, the British Medical Association yesterday denied that it was common practice to avoid inquests in this way. "It is in the doctor's interest for the patient's death to be reported and for there to be an independent investigation," the BMA said. In 99 per cent of cases, the death would be examined by the hospital pathologist anyway. The Medical Defence Union insisted that it would never advise doctors to avoid inquests.

Mr Simon Rundell, a third-year student at University College Hospital, London, claimed that heart resuscitation was universally accepted after the heart had stopped, but the success rate on general wards was only 6 per cent; and 16 per cent in areas with specialist equipment. The process of resuscitation was often both painful and aggressive. "I honestly cannot remember an

arrest where at least two ribs haven't been broken," he said. Yet in many cases the intervention could neither save nor advance the quality of life.

"The medical model of care sees death as a failure," he said. In contrast, the nursing role was to assist patients to a comfortable death where this was inevitable.

Mr Rundell called for nurses to be involved in a multi-disciplinary team making decisions over whether patients should be revived.

Mr Anthony Palmer, a nurse from Scarborough, said doctors usually made the decision without taking account of the wishes of the patient or their relatives. Patients were not told that "do no resuscitation" had been written into their notes, and others had their wishes not to be revived ignored. "Frequently, medical staff and unfortunately some nursing staff have not listened to patients' wishes when both see quality of life and quantity of life is negligible."

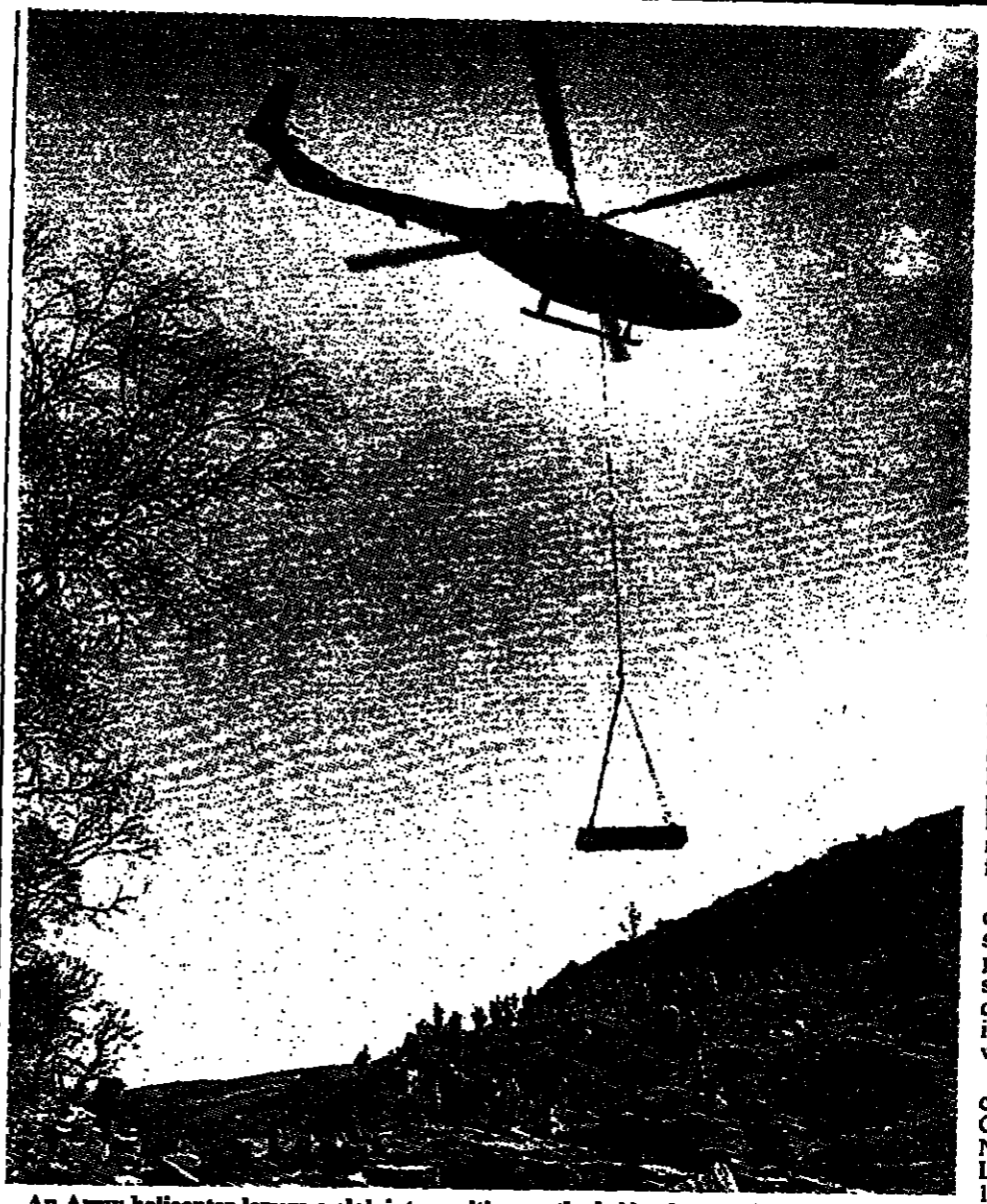
One delegate suggested that people should carry separate cards alongside donor cards stating if they did not wish to be resuscitated. "These should be signed when people are

aware of what they are saying," Miss Peggy Prior from Canterbury said.

Mrs Kate Mather, a ward sister in Warrington, said her mother had specifically requested that she did not want to be resuscitated if this was ever in question. However, when she was admitted to hospital with a heart attack and her doctor conveyed that wish to the doctor, her pleas were ignored.

Other speakers pointed out the dangers of taking life or death decisions in advance. Mrs Elsa Flinders, from Mid Surrey, said her mother had had a stroke in her mid-70s and wanted to be allowed to die because of what she had read about the quality of life she could expect. Yet despite two further strokes, she learned to swim. "Had we followed her wishes in the 1970s she would now be dead," Mrs Flinders said.

Delegates later called for guidelines for nurses concerning patients' rights to refuse treatment in hospital at the end of their lives. Nurses could be in a vulnerable legal position if a Living Will which has been adopted in 40 states in the United States became law here.



An Army helicopter lowers a slab into position on the bridge in a meticulous operation

Air skill restores Brontë Bridge

By Peter Davenport

THE path across the Haworth moors in West Yorkshire trodden each year by tens of thousands of Brontë devotees wanting to trace the footsteps of the celebrated sisters was made a little easier yesterday, thanks to an Army helicopter crew and a team of military engineers.

In a display of inch-perfect precision, five gritstone slabs, weighing a total of 4½ tons, were airlifted into position to repair the Brontë Bridge.

The footbridge crosses the South Dean Beck on the Brontë Way footpath, about a mile from the derelict farmhouse of Top Withens, reputed to be the Wuthering Heights of Emily Brontë's novel. It was washed away in a flash flood in May last year.

Mr Les Morgan, the council's senior countryside officer, said he was faced with the problem of transporting the slabs, donated by a local quarry man, without damaging the moors or its stone walls with heavy machinery.

The solution came in an offer by 9 Regiment Army Air Corps, based at Topcliffe in North Yorkshire, to provide a Lynx helicopter to airlift the 10-inch thick slabs to the site in a natural hollow.

Malnutrition in elderly 'not due to diet'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

THE nutritional problems of elderly hospital patients are being investigated by a group of experts appointed by the Department of Health.

The specialists are concerned that many long-stay patients are seriously underweight and may suffer from malnutrition.

However, the problems are not due to inadequacies of hospital catering or food budgets, Professor Malcolm Hodgkinson, chairman of the expert group, said yesterday.

He was commenting on claims made at the Royal College of Nursing congress in Brighton that 20 per cent of hospital patients have malnutrition because they do not eat enough or are given the wrong diet.

Mrs Jean Page, a nurse manager from Manchester, told the congress on Tuesday that the worst problems occurred in long-stay hospitals for the elderly and mentally ill, where staff failed to monitor patients' diet or consumption.

She said that lettuce, tomatoes and jacket potatoes were withdrawn temporarily from Manchester hospital menus to cut costs. There was a high instance of scurvy due to vitamin C deficiency, she said.

Professor Hodgkinson, honorary consultant in geriatric medicine at University College Hospital and Middlesex School of Medicine, London, said: "We have come to realize that underweight is common in these hospitals. It is so common that we have become blind to it."

"It is too simplistic to talk about how much food patients are given, what it costs or what it consists of. We have to try to understand the sort of problems that these patients face."

There was no evidence of specific dietary deficiencies in

hospital patients, he said. "I haven't seen a case of scurvy for 25 years. Clinical deficiency of vitamin C is virtually unknown in this country."

However, many patients had feeding difficulties and their special needs might not be recognized by staff.

"Patients, especially the elderly, may not be given enough time to eat before the trolley comes to collect their plate. Some, such as those suffering from strokes or senile dementia, may need to be spoon-fed. This takes time and sensitivity and may not always be possible in a busy ward."

The problems could be compounded by the pressure on hospitals to provide hundreds, if not thousands, of meals a day. There were serious shortages of catering staff in London and the south-east, he said.

Professor Hodgkinson's working party was set up a week ago to review the nutrition of the elderly in the community and in hospitals, and to prepare a report.

Miss Carrie Battersby, hotel services manager at Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow, north-west London, said that the hospital's own dietetics department provided technical and nutritional advice, and food standards were carefully monitored for all groups of patients, including the elderly, children, and pregnant women, as an integral part of nursing care.

Hospital catering budgets varied widely but the cost of food per patient was irrelevant to the quality of nutrition and care, she said.

Dr Mike Raynor, senior research officer of the Coronary Prevention Group, said there was a need for the nutritional standards in hospitals to be monitored more carefully.

Fears over drug test dangers

By Jill Sherman and Ruth Gledhill

STUDENTS participating in drug trials are often completely ignorant of the side effects of the tests, Miss Susan Howarth, student council member for the Royal College of Nursing, said yesterday.

Posters in nursing accommodation, hospital corridors and lifts generally played on the financial inducements, which could be more than £300, and on nurses' instincts to help others, she said.

One student had reportedly been paid £2,000 to have his heart stopped and restarted. Students had suffered duodenal ulcers, hypertension, heart palpitations and psychiatric problems as a result of trials, Miss Howarth alleged.

In some cases nurses had insisted on continuing the trials when they obviously found them distressing simply to pay off debts, she said.

A nurse at a leading London hospital said yesterday that she took part in a medical trial because she was interested professionally and to help pay for her holiday.

The nurse, who was at the time a student earning £450 a month, was paid £70 for the two-month trial. It involved taking capsules containing markers to test bowel func-

tion. No drugs were involved. She said: "I was fully informed about the test and told I could back out at any time."

She said she would be prepared to take part in another test but if it were one involving drugs and she experienced side effects, she would stop taking them.

Mrs Val Durston, former chairman of the RCN Congress, said two students at a London nursing school had suffered mental and physical problems after a trial for premenstrual drugs.

She said: "In medical centres of excellence there is an element of medical staff whose jobs are supported by pharmaceutical companies to do their research. Some of these doctors are not following guidelines drawn up by the Royal College of Physicians."

In 1986 the RCP prepared guidance after the deaths of two students during trials. These gave broad safety standards and recommended that payment be limited to pocket money or loss of earnings.

Miss Howarth pointed out that legislation had been introduced to cover animal experiments. "There are stricter controls on rats than on human beings," she said.

Help with the cost of disability—new arrangements from April

The Department of Social Security is making changes to give more people help with the costs of being disabled:

- Help for severely disabled babies. Attendance Allowance can be paid for babies under two years. The weekly rate will be £37.55 or £25.05, according to the baby's disability.

- People who are both deaf and blind may get a Mobility Allowance of £26.25 a week.

- Extra help for disabled people on Income Support, Housing Benefit or Community Charge Benefit will mean more people will qualify. Weekly disability premiums go up to £15.40 for single people, £22.10 for couples and £15.40 for disabled children.

- Carers may be able to qualify for Invalid Care Allowance payments with weekly earnings of up to £20.

- People who get Sickness Benefit, Invalidity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance can earn up to £35.00 a week and still receive their full benefit, where the work they do is medically beneficial.

- People who get Invalidity Benefit, Sickness Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance can keep their full benefit money when they go on employment rehabilitation courses.

If you want more information or advice about the benefit changes in April, call in at your local Social Security office, ring Freeline Social Security on 0800 666 555 between 10 am and 4 pm, or send in the coupon below.

You can send me more information and an application form for:	
<input type="checkbox"/> ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE <input type="checkbox"/> MOBILITY ALLOWANCE <input type="checkbox"/> INVALID CARE ALLOWANCE <input type="checkbox"/> SICKNESS BENEFIT	<input type="checkbox"/> INVALIDITY BENEFIT <input type="checkbox"/> SEVERE DISABLEMENT ALLOWANCE <input type="checkbox"/> INCOME SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> HOUSING BENEFIT <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY CHARGE BENEFIT
Name: _____ Address: _____ Postcode: _____	
PLEASE SEND THIS COUPON (NO STAMP NEEDED) TO: DISABILITY BENEFITS, FREEPOST, LONDON SE8 7BP	

Local elections a crucial test of nerves for Tories

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

MINISTERS are admitting that the crucial test of Conservative nerves this year is likely to follow local council elections on May 3, the first national measure of public feeling on the community charge.

To minimize expected Conservative losses they plan to intensify efforts to blame high-spending Labour and Liberal Democrat councils wherever they can for the levels of poll tax, in spite of evidence from the Mid Staffordshire by-election that the Government is drawing all the blame.

The Liberal Democrats opened their campaign yesterday with Mr Paddy Ashdown saying the poll tax had "thrown a hand grenade" into the contest, making the outcome harder than ever to predict. He said the Conservatives faced large losses and Labour, on its standing in opinion polls, would expect gains of 600 to 700 seats.

Of the Liberal Democrats, he said cautiously: "What we have to hold and we expect to add gains."

If Mr Ashdown is right, the Conservatives would finish on May 3 holding fewer than a fifth of the 5,327 seats. The irony is that the Conservatives will be watching the fortunes of the former Alliance centre parties as closely as they will their own: ministers concede

that they need a centre party revival to cut down the threat from Labour.

For the Liberal Democrats, whose vote has been holding up in local government by-elections while their national opinion poll standings have muddled around 5 to 6 per cent, a respectable showing will be crucial to party morale.

There will also be much attention focused on what performance the Green Party can manage, having slipped badly since its remarkable 15 per cent in the European elections last June. In last year's local elections Green candidates averaged 8 per cent of the vote.

If there are considerable Conservative losses it will take the party to one of its worst positions ever in local government. The Conservatives were going through a bad patch when the same seats were contested four years ago: the Westland affair, which saw Mr Michael Heseltine leave

the Cabinet, was followed by controversies over the sale of Rover and the American bombing of Libya, and the party lost the Fulham by-election to Labour.

Labour was six points ahead of the Government in national opinion polls. Labour gained 485 seats in 1986 and the Alliance 293, while the Conservatives lost 727.

This time the Tories start from an already low baseline.

Labour is seeking to minimize expectations fuelled by the Mid Staffordshire by-election success and is fighting from a high baseline; however Dr Jack Cunningham, the party's campaigns director, has forecast the party will do well.

Labour is alarmed however about some high-spending London boroughs such as Lambeth and has been planning to take control of local party manifestos if left-wingers insist on including pledges not to prosecute

people who refuse to pay the poll tax.

In Scotland Labour has to fight off a significant Scottish Nationalist threat.

Attention will focus on London, where Labour hopes for advances in Westminster and Wandsworth in spite of those boroughs bringing in setting some of the lowest poll taxes - £195 and £148 respectively.

The Conservatives are hoping for gains in Waltham Forest, Brent, and in Ealing, where Mr Neil Kinnock lives. They also hope to end the Liberal Democrat control in the London boroughs of Richmond upon Thames and Sutton.

On May 3 there are full elections in all 32 London boroughs and nine Scottish regions and three islands. A third of the councils are up for election in the 36 metropolitan boroughs in England and also in 123 English and six Welsh shire districts.

A 1986 survey in 50 seats and towns involved showed Labour at 44.5 per cent, Conservatives 29.2 per cent and the Alliance 24.6 per cent. That compares with present poll standings of Labour 54 per cent, Conservatives 31 per cent, Liberal Democrats 6 per cent, Greens 4 per cent, SDP 2 per cent and Others 3 per cent.

THE RESULTS IN 1986

	Total	Con	Lab	All	Others
London boroughs	1914	685	957	249	23
Scottish regions	523	65	227	39	192
Metropolitan boroughs	860	141	610	102	7
Shire districts	2030	677	770	459	124
Totals	5327	1568	2564	849	346
Net gains		-727	+485	+293	-51

Medieval water tunnels reopen

By David Young



Mr Alan Bates, director of the Exeter Museum, in the tunnels beneath the city

A NETWORK of tunnels built under Exeter more than 600 years ago when the water industry was first in private ownership is to be re-opened to the public at Easter after being closed for three years for extensive renovations.

The tunnels were built between 1347 and 1349 when the Black Death was raging and the wealthy of the city were prepared to pay for water piped from a spring on the outskirts.

The network, which was extended in 1420 and again in 1776, runs under the city wall into the High Street.

The tunnels were the first successful attempt to bring pure water to the citizens of Exeter and are now owned and maintained by the city's museum and arts service.

In the past three years £100,000 has been spent installing new lighting and safety measures.

From Easter Monday the public will be able to join conducted tours through the tunnels.

A new entrance has been built in the city's main shopping precinct, where visitors will be able to see audio-visual films on the history of the tunnels, the only ones of their kind in Britain.

A visitors' centre and museum shop, which the city's museums and arts department had the good grace to describe as "inevitable", have also been set up.

Democrats set out their poll tax alternative

By Robin Oakley

THE Liberal Democrats yesterday launched a campaign for a local income tax (LIT) to replace the poll tax or Labour's "roof tax" alternative.

The scheme would involve local authorities setting their own tax rates. A national average would be calculated and collected through PAYE by the Inland Revenue.

At the end of the year each taxpayer's liability would be assessed: those living in areas with rates below the national average would get a refund; those in areas with higher rates would have to pay the difference.

Ministers have criticized the system as being difficult to enforce, expensive to collect, spawning local bureaucracies and greater intrusion into lives and tending to conceal councils' spending policies.

However the new Liberal Democrat document *Local Income Tax - The Best Way*, written by Mr Matthew Taylor, MP for Truro, says a local income tax directly related to the ability to pay would be fairer and more cost effective.

It says an LIT operated on end-of-year tax adjustments would involve no burden on employers. It would be cheaper to administer than the poll tax which costs £400 million a year.

By framing the system to ensure that most people get refunds, there would be an incentive to ensure tax forms were submitted.

A main reason for introducing the poll tax was to make local government more accountable by making people more aware of spending levels. The Liberal Democrats say end-of-year tax adjustments would be a highly visible means of ensuring people knew if their council was

spending above or below the national average: they would complete tax forms just before May local elections.

Since there are 25.2 million income tax payers (counting husbands and wives as one unit) compared with 19.8 million ratepayers, they say it would also achieve the Government's aim of being spread across a wider section of the population.

No extra information about people would be required by town hall staff and full computerization of the Inland Revenue (not due until the mid-1990s) would not be required for implementation of LIT, the system advocated by the independent Layfield Commission on Local Government Finance in 1976.

The Liberal Democrats denied government claims that the average LIT would be 6.4p in the pound, saying these were based on wrong assumptions about grant and expenditure levels.

The document offered four comparisons of poll tax and LIT payments based on an average poll tax of £350 and 1990-91 tax allowances:

● A student nurse earning £5,695 a year paying poll tax of £350 would pay £132 LIT.

● A pensioner couple on £5,815 would pay £460 in poll tax after rebate, and nothing under LIT.

● A married single-earner teacher on £9,500 would pay £234 in LIT compared with £700 poll tax.

● A married single-earner government minister on £44,951 a year would pay LIT of £1,971 compared with £700 poll tax. There would be no interest payments for high-earners qualifying for a refund when living under low-spending authorities.

Mackay to visit black chambers

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

LORD Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, will for the first time make a special visit to two "black" sets of barristers' chambers today to talk at first hand about problems they face.

Although there is a steady increase in the number of black barristers coming to the Bar, more than half of all 360 black barristers are concentrated in a few sets of London chambers.

The Lord Chancellor, who recently urged more lawyers from such ethnic minorities to seek to qualify themselves for judicial appointment, is making the visit at the invitation of Mr Peter Cresswell, QC, the Bar's chairman.

Mr Cresswell said that he was concerned about what he called the sense of isolation felt in a number of black sets.

"There is a critical need to break down the isolation undoubtedly felt by barristers in those sets," he said. "As a rule, white firms of solicitors do not send work to them, however well-equipped they may be to understand and serve the interests of the firm's clients."

The Lord Chancellor, Mr Cresswell said, was very interested in the problems of those from ethnic minorities

and concerned with ensuring that the legal profession was open to them.

The visit comes at a time when initiatives are under way to eliminate racial discrimination in the profession.

In particular, Lord Justice Glidewell, chairman of the Judicial Studies Board, has agreed next month to meet representatives from the Society of Black Lawyers to discuss the possibility of "anti-racial" training for judges.

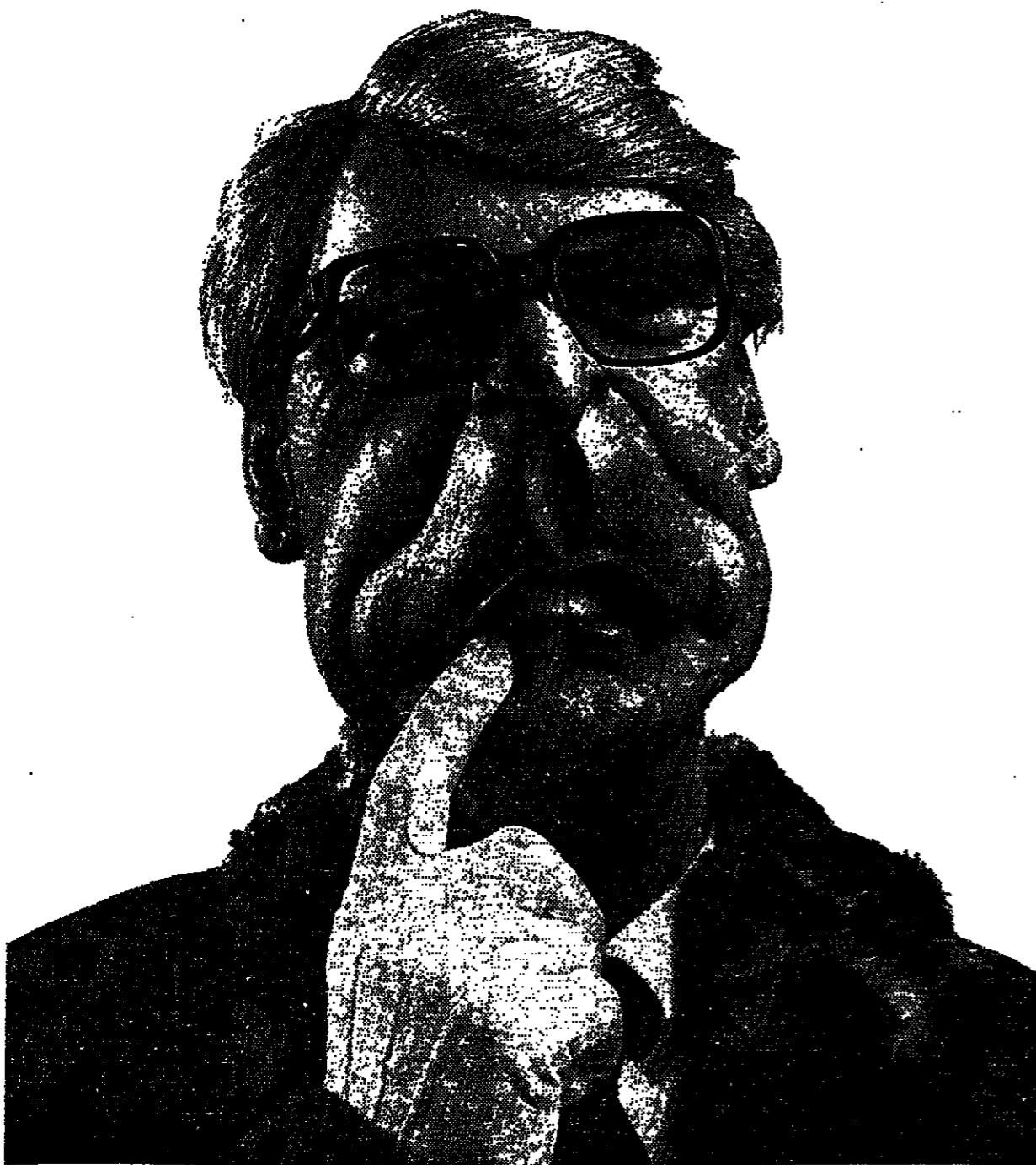
Mr Peter Herbert, the society's chairman, said he was hopeful that that the meeting would result in training for all ranks of judges in anti-racism.

Lord Mackay: Visit at the invitation of Bar chairman

Dear John,

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Pollution time bomb warning on dumps

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

HUNDREDS of dumps in Wales have become "contamination time bombs" through leaks of polluted water, methane and unknown waste.

In a devastating indictment of the lack of effective waste disposal controls, the Commons Welsh Affairs select committee in a report yesterday disclosed widespread environmental damage from hazardous waste tips, polluted sites and fly-tipping.

It demanded urgently giving new statutory powers to three regional disposal bodies to police all waste sites.

The report's findings include footpaths crossing unlicensed, unfenced toxic waste sites where children could play; a big rise in foreign waste imports to landfill sites; dumps of up to 10 million tonnes which do not meet a licence; and uncontrolled fly-tipping of dangerous waste.

It found potential leaks from unidentified waste in buried drums or plastic bags; 749 potentially contaminated sites, homes bordering landfill sites emitting methane gas; and pollution, possibly including dioxins, from poorly run hospital incinerators.

It lists five dumps which are crossed by footpaths, contravening pollution inspectorate guidelines: Cilgwyn quarry, Gwynedd; Carrey Hojiam, Powys; and, in Clwyd, Bryn Gwioig, near Mold; Crown Colant, near Holywell; and the Etna sites, near Buckley.

"Unlicensed and unfenced sites present two risks: that members of the public, perhaps children, will stray on to the site at risk to their own

health (many landfill sites are disused quarries) and that unlicensed toxic waste may be dumped on the site," the report says. It calls for such sites to be fenced and footpaths diverted.

The report cites imports of Swiss fly ash into Swansea and suspect waste landed at Neath, West Glamorgan, as examples of increasing public concern about imports.

It urges an immediate ban on imports of waste for direct landfill. Stricter controls are also needed on imports of waste for "treatment" because of potential exploitation by "cowboy" operators.

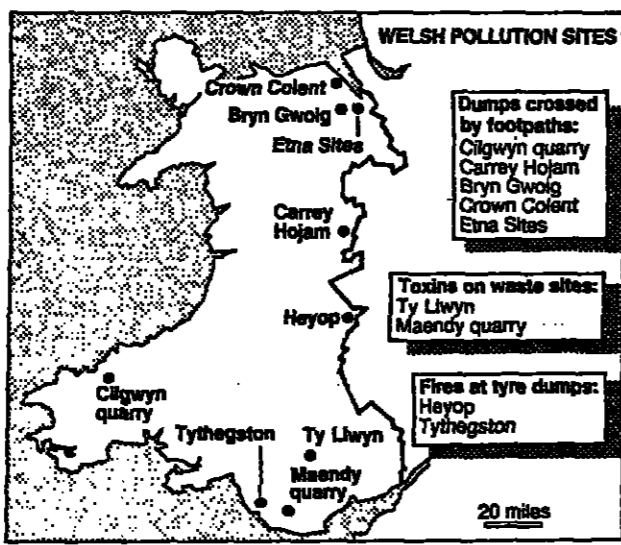
Tyre dumps are virtually uncontrolled, the committee found, in spite of two big fires at Heyop, in Powys, and Tythegston refuse disposal site, Mid Glamorgan.

No new landfill licences should be granted where a site is within 250 metres of homes, it says, coupled with a guarantee that local residents are not denied insurance.

A Welsh Office study disclosed to the committee reported contaminants such as PCBs, phenols and toxins on waste sites.

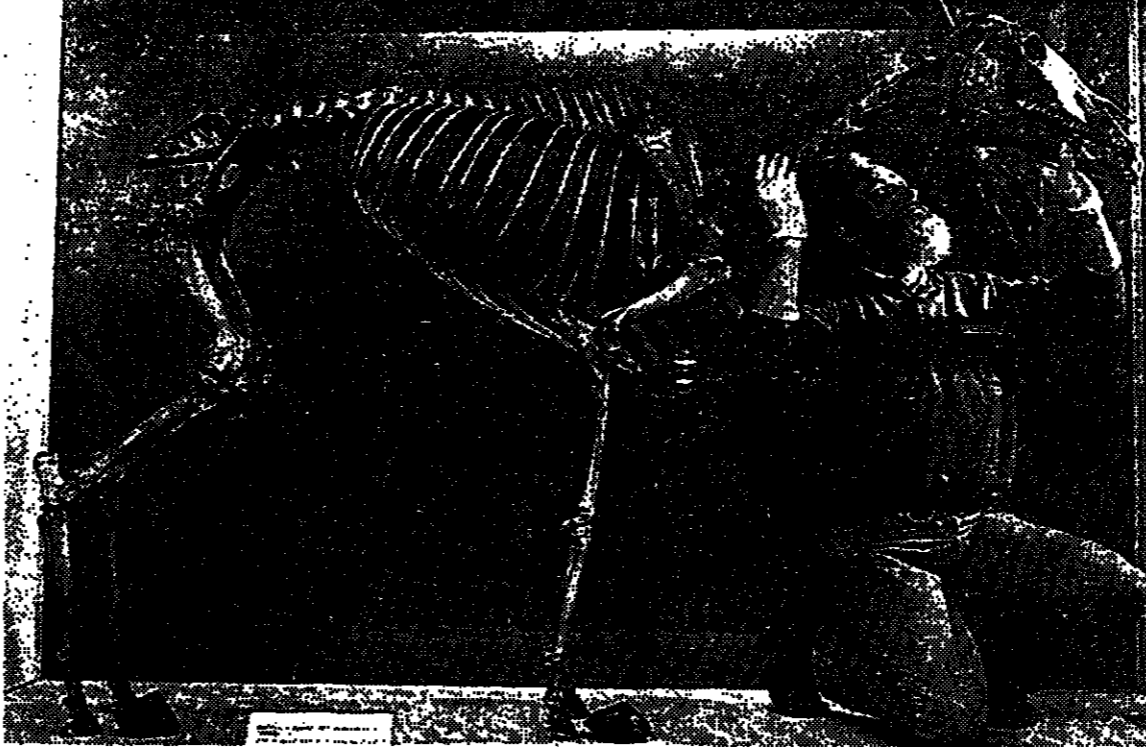
The study said: "Unidentified encapsulated waste such as that in buried drums or plastic bags is potentially a serious hazard as drum contents will leak out once the barrier degrades or is punctured. Such wastes are effectively a contamination time bomb."

House of Commons Welsh Affairs Committee 1st report: Toxic waste disposal in Wales (Stationery Office, £8.80)



Napoleon's charger takes pride of place

PETER TRIVINOR



Mr Adrian Carlton, of the museum in Chelsea, prepares Marengo's skull and, right, horse and master in an engraving by Meissonier

By John Hill

THE bones of Marengo, the charger that bore Napoleon into his most celebrated battles, are about to emerge from obscurity, to take centre place in an exhibition honouring the horse in war.

The Emperor's favourite horse might have been expected to occupy an honoured resting place on French soil. With Alexander's Bucephalus and Wellington's Copenhagen, he ranks among the great war horses of history. Instead he is on show at the head of the National Army Museum's staircase in Chelsea, west London.

Marengo — said to have carried Napoleon in

flight from the battlefield of Waterloo in 1815 — stands in a glass case, forever on parade as exhibit 6309-89-2. Now he is to become the key exhibit in a war horse exhibition in what is officially the Year of the Horse.

Displayed with the bones, which show he stood at 14.1 hands, is a print from a portrait painted from life by James Ward RA in 1821. Marengo, a grey, is shown frightened; looking across an arm of the sea on which sits a raven, bird of ill-omen. Beyond, the sun is setting. Ward had in mind Napoleon's vanished glory. It was, however, also the fate of the imperial charger to go into exile, living out his life in England as an undistinguished stud.

According to Mr Julian Saunders, a curator at the museum, Napoleon acquired the horse in Egypt after the Battle of Aboukir. He rode him in Northern Italy and named him after his early victory there.

Marengo's early life is uncertain, but Mr Saunders says there is some evidence that he was bred at Annesley Park, County Wexford, where his grandsire is named as the celebrated racehorse Eclipse, who had the same relationship to Copenhagen.

The horse died in 1831 aged 36 and owned by Lieutenant-General J Angerstein, who had kept him at stables in Ely, Cambridgeshire.

Deaths prompt seat-belt law plan

By Michael Dwyer, Transport Correspondent

GROWING concern over the number of deaths and injuries among car occupants could lead to the compulsory wearing of rear seat-belts for all children and adults, Mr Robert Atkins, the Minister for Roads, said yesterday.

Legislation could be introduced by the early 1990s once the number of vehicles fitted with rear seat-belts, which became mandatory for all new vehicles in 1987, has reached 70 per cent, Mr Atkins said.

His statement coincided with the publication of a Department of Transport Road Research Laboratory survey, showing that since the change in the law last September about 80 per cent of children were now wearing rear seat-belts in new vehicles, compared to 45 per cent in 1988. It brings the wearing rate for five to 13-year-olds up to the level of infants in child car seats.

Welcoming the findings, Mr Atkins said: "The survey shows the new law is already saving lives or preventing serious injury to almost 200 children annually. However, nearly 300 children's lives are still being lost or blighted for want of a seat-belt."

Although Britain's road accident rate has been steadily improving — to about 5,000 deaths and 80,000 serious injuries a year — the sudden increase in child deaths and accidents in the third quarter of 1989 has prompted a review of safety strategy.

Mr Atkins plans a road safety campaign for the summer directed mainly at children. It will be similar in scale to the annual anti-drink-driving campaigns.

The Department of Transport is also preparing an updated version of the Highway Code and is reviewing the driving test, with a view to introducing legislative changes in the next parliamentary session.

British Rail yesterday announced a series of changes to InterCity and provincial services to reflect increased demand for rail services in the summer.

Most InterCity services will rise by about £2, although there will be no change or reductions in price on some routes. There will also be selective fare increases for certain provincial services, and a reduction of the discount offered for cheap day and standard day returns.

Industry waking up to green issues, CBI says

By Libby Jukes

BRITISH industry is slowly becoming more conscious of its environmental responsibilities, the CBI said yesterday. The majority of companies, however, had seriously underestimated the pressure that would be put on them by Continental competitors to comply with tougher regulations on pollution after 1992.

In a report, *Waking Up to the Environment*, the CBI said: "While many companies, particularly the larger ones, appreciate the importance of environmental issues, there is still much work to be done before the overwhelming majority have developed and implemented effective environmental policies throughout their business."

The study, based on a survey of 250 companies, found that 85 per cent of respondents believed that increased public concern for the environment

was at least "significant" for business. Three-quarters of the group said they had an environmental policy, although of them 60 per cent said they did not feel the need to use the policy in public relations activities.

Seventy-five per cent of firms claimed they were fully aware of present or projected environmental legislation. Just over half believed that European legislation would not affect their economic performance.

Of specific environmental issues that concerned them, five were most important: air pollution, hazardous chemicals, river pollution, solid waste and the water supply.

Fifty-five per cent of firms had recently undertaken or planned to undertake investment in environment-related matters, but three-quarters were unable to give any in-

dication of the continuing costs of those measures. Eighty per cent admitted that "green" capital expenditure accounted for less than 5 per cent of their operating costs.

Mr David Smith, a director of PA Consulting Group, which carried out the research, said: "My main worry is the comparative lack of concern among British companies about possible future European legislation."

"European companies have invested heavily in environmental protection measures, and will press for laws to ensure that they regard as fair competition with so-called 'dirty' countries, such as the UK, Spain and Greece."

Waking up to a Better Environment (CBI, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU; £20, £10 to members)

Firms accused over aerosols

THE environmental group Friends of the Earth has accused two leading chemical companies of misleading consumers into buying aerosols containing ozone-damaging gases in an effort to get around public fears about chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

The group said yesterday that the two companies were actively promoting HCFCs (halogenated chlorofluorocarbons, known as halons) as an alternative propellant for aerosols, despite the damage caused to the environment.

Friends of the Earth said it had discovered that some household products on sale to the public were being advertised as "ozone friendly" although they contained HCFCs. The gas was being used in hairsprays, cologne, hair mousse, disinfectant foams and room fresheners.

Miss Fiona Weir, air pollution campaigner for Friends of the Earth, said: "It is clear the

chemical industry cannot police itself. They have not been responsible and it shows there is a vital need for legislation."

She said that even the Government was on record as saying that HCFCs were not an acceptable alternative to CFCs although they had allowed its use as a bridging measure for refrigeration.

Miss Weir added: "HCFCs cause only 5 per cent of the damage of CFCs but the hole in the ozone layer over the Arctic will continue to get bigger over the next few decades."

"If we do not have controls over the use of HCFCs then the hole will not be repaired until the end of the next century. There must be tougher controls."

"Manufacturers should be forced to label their products properly so that consumer can tell what they are buying," Miss Weir added.

BA staff queue to join low-rent home scheme

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

MORE than 200 employees of British Airways are to be given a chance to rent homes at cut prices after a rush by private investors who, in less than three months, have pumped over £15 million into a series of housing trusts set up to buy property near Gatwick and Heathrow airports.

Airways Homes was set up at the end of last year under the Government's Business Expansion Scheme with the intention of buying property near Heathrow so that staff could be assured of some where affordable to live in one of the most expensive parts of Britain.

Under the scheme, investors receive tax relief provided they leave their cash in the fund for five years. The first such fund was over-subscribed within weeks and now three others have been set up, two of which are already over-subscribed.

British Airways nominates members of staff which it wants to be offered a tenancy and who pay £380 a month for a one-bedroom house or £460 a month for a two-bedroom property. Average market rents vary between £500 and £750 near the airports.

Mr Simon Tattersfield, chief executive of the Airways Housing Trust, of which Airways Homes is a subsidiary, said yesterday: "The demand has been astonishing. We received £980,000 in one post

alone yesterday and it seems certain that we will be setting up more of these trusts."

British Airways has worked with housing associations to obtain properties for its staff for 40 years but only now has the concept really taken off.

With property prices falling sharply, especially near Gatwick where prices have slumped by 26 per cent in the last year, builders are anxious to sell new homes quickly.

"This has meant we have been able to go along with cash in hand and obtain discounts of at least 20 per cent for whole groups of houses," Mr Tattersfield said.

Staff often find it difficult to afford flats or houses near the airports and are queuing to get on the British Airways approved list.

So far 60 houses have been bought near Heathrow with more in the final stages of completion. The trust expects to have more than 200 homes on its books within a few months.

"We are very excited by the success of the scheme," a British Airways spokesman said. "It will help us to recruit people who otherwise would not have been able to take up a post without this kind of assured accommodation."

Under the Business Expansion Scheme companies can raise new equity finance from individual investors who receive tax relief at their highest

marginal rate and who do not pay capital gains tax on the sale of their shares in the trust provided they have been held for the qualifying period.

Britain's six million physically disabled people are often unable to lead independent lives because of the nation's housing system, according to a report published by Shelter (David Young writes).

The report, based on a survey of local authorities in England and Wales, found that only 14 per cent of housing departments had a written policy on meeting the housing needs of physically disabled people and only 14 per cent of social services departments had carried out surveys to find out how many physically disabled people lived in their areas.

The Shelter report, *Our Homes, Our Rights*, says that all new housing planned by housing associations or councils should be made suitable for disabled people, that disabled people should be given financial and practical help to employ their own personal assistants and that local authorities should involve disabled people in their work on housing policy.

Our Homes, Our Rights (Shelter, 88 Old Street, London EC1V 9HU; £2.50 to individuals, £3.50 to institutions, plus 50p p and p)

Quality test for councils

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

MEMBERS of the public may soon be able to go to their town hall and compare their council's performance in sweeping streets or emptying bins with others.

They will be able to ask for details of how services in their area are being provided on the basis of an objective table of municipal performance.

The Audit Commission, the independent watchdog on council services, is launching a scheme which will pull together available information on how well councils maintain street lighting, repair potholes and dispose of waste.

The data will be made available to councils, and it will be up to them how it is made public.

Called the Quality Exchange, the plan will show how councils are performing in comparison to local authorities covering similar kinds of districts and populations; it will seek to prevent unfair comparisons between, say, London boroughs and shire districts.

Mr Howard Davies, the commission controller, said yesterday that public concern was growing, especially about environmental services. "But it is difficult to measure quality, and even harder to monitor it."

The quality ratings will not be compulsory, however.

Bed and breakfast goes hi-tech

GUESTHOUSES are joining the hi-tech revolution to win a rising number of business guests from hotels, according to a guide published today.

Along with home cooking and a cosy welcome, proprietors are offering fax machines and direct-dial telephones to attract expense-account clientele, says the Consumers' Association *Good Bed and Breakfast Guide*.

Mrs Elsie Dillard, a co-author of the guide, said: "More and more business people are using bed and breakfasts. They find them more personal and enjoy having a chat with the owner or other guests at the end of a day's work."

Standards were continually rising. Bathrooms were being installed in

bedrooms and many had direct-dial telephones. Some guesthouses had fax machines and more were expected to install them.

The traditional home-cooking on offer was still excellent value and country guesthouses often made their own bread and jams, and had a local supply of high-quality bacon, ham and eggs. Gourmet could find cordon bleu standards in a few bed and breakfasts and a rising number without drinks licences were happy for their guests to bring their own wine.

The top 20 bed and breakfast establishments in the guide are: The Black Hostelry, Ely, Cambs; Corner Cottage, Admington, War; Corner Cottage, Westerham, Kent; Fron Goch,

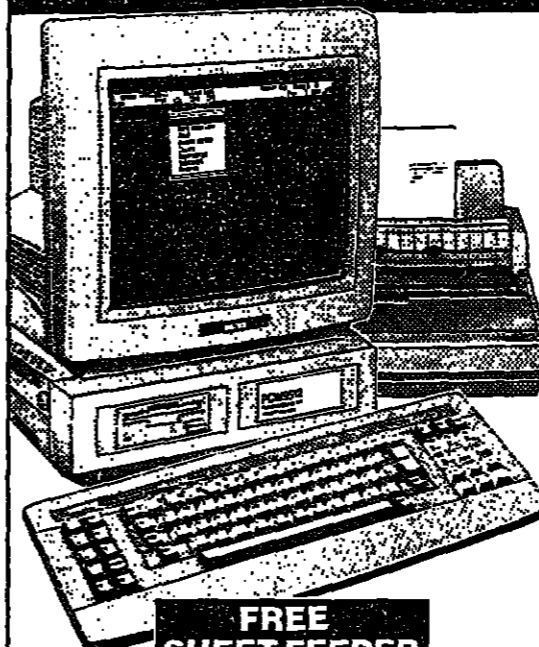
Cynwyd, Clwyd; Hammer and Hand Country Guesthouse, Hutton-le-Hole, N Yorks; Holly Cottage, Bakewell, Derbs; Loxley Farm, Loxley, War.

Mayfair Hotel, Blackpool, Lancs; Midhurst House, St Peter Port, Guernsey; Mizzards Farm, Rogate, W Sussex; Old Craymore House, Rothsay, Isle of Bute, Strathclyde; The Old Rectory, Standlake, Oxon.

The Old School House, Castle Heddingham, Essex; Shurnhold House, Melksham, Wilt; Slough Court, Stoke St Gregory, Somerset; Teflan, Talsarnau, Gwynedd; Trinity House Hotel, Ulverston, Cumbria; Wheatheaves, Winsley, Wilt; Woodlands, Blair Atholl, Tayside; Woodville House, London SW1.

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March 28 1990

PARLIAMENT

Opposition 'trying to widen scope of Bill'

THE use of a guillotine motion to limit time allowed for the remaining stages of the Social Security Bill was defended in the Commons by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, when he accused the Opposition of trying to widen the scope of the Bill.

"Unless we take sensible steps now, the debate will be unimaginable", he said.

"No government can stand back and allow the proper management of the business to be threatened by the unreasonable prospect which could have followed from handling the Bill without a timetable motion."

Mr Bruce Grogart, an Opposition spokesman on House of Commons affairs, said the Government was in a panic because it could no longer rely on many of its backbenchers.

Sir Geoffrey moved the timetable motion allowing two full days for report stage and third reading of the Bill.

He said that the committee stage had been orderly and "compact" and that he had thought subsequently that there

SOCIAL SECURITY

was a sensible agreement among business managers that there would be one-and-a-half days for report and third reading. The timetable motion would give more time than that already generous allocation for these stages.

The problem had been that, since the committee stage, the Opposition had shown a far less constructive attitude and had tabled no fewer than 21 new clauses and another 21 amendments for the report stage. Few of the clauses concerned subjects discussed in committee. The remainder had been put down substantially to widen the scope of the Bill.

Mr Grogart said that on only one other occasion had he had the job of opposing a guillotine motion in the House.

The Government had rejected his advice then, and he had the feeling that they had been regretting doing so.

That was when they wanted to guillotine the poll tax Bill. His advice had been that it was perhaps not a good idea to rush that Bill through. Recalling the

vote of 317 to 223 for the guillotine on that occasion, the old phrase about turkeys voting for Christmas came to mind.

He approached this motion with caution because of a certain sameness about debates on guillotine motions and because it would not be long before the roles of the two front benches were reversed.

"I do not disagree that it is important to get sensible consideration of Bills in committee, but Sir Geoffrey was stretching it a little to excess in pretending that the guillotine on this is orderly management of government business."

Sir Geoffrey was becoming increasingly like a party hack getting through business as effectively as he could, and stifling debate.

"The reason this guillotine is brought forward is because the Government is in a panic."

That was because it could no longer rely on many of its backbenchers. On Tuesday on the Government's flagship legislation, Mr Heseltine and Mr Lawson had deserted.

It should look carefully before rushing through legislation by use of guillotine. It had used three on the "great" Social

Security Bill but had failed to produce a sensible piece of legislation at the end. Time after time the Government had not listened to reasoned argument.

Sir George Young (Faringham, Acton, C) said that he supported the guillotine, after the way the time had been wasted in debate all night a fortnight ago.

Mr Michael Foot (Blacau, Gwent, Lab) said that Sir Geoffrey should have waited to listen to the debate. When he had moved such a motion while in the last Government, he had had the courtesy to listen to the rest of the debate.

It was grossly discourteous for the Leader of the House to run away immediately after making his speech.

Sir Geoffrey should be there listening to debates and telling the Prime Minister what was being said in the House.

Mr Nicholas Scott, Minister for Social Security, said that there would be more time as a result of the motion than if they had interpreted the understanding with the Opposition in the normal way. No one had expected a sitting of 23 hours today as newspapers had reported the Opposition was threatening.



Mr Nicholas Scott: There will be more time as a result of this guillotine motion

Concern over guns and drugs

Glasgow, this year's European City of Culture, was becoming known as the city of drugs. Mr Jimmy Hood (Clydesdale, Lab) said during question time. Parents in the city were concerned about drug abuse and related crimes. There was an increased use of firearms, he said.

He had asked for extra resources for Strathclyde police to enable them to fight the significant increase in drug abuse and drug-related crime.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Under Secretary of State, Scottish Office, said that law on guns had been tightened last year. The number of officers involved in drugs work had been increased.

Fishing boat grants cut

An order to restrict the availability of grants for fishing vessels was made, shortly, restricting aid only to essential safety improvements and to cases where it is needed to provide back-up for EC grant aid. Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in a written reply.

Rates of grants remain at 30 per cent and the restriction came after an announcement last December that the present scheme served to distort rather than encourage sensible investment by vessel owners, he said.

Playing fields

A Bill to prevent local authorities disposing of playing fields unless they were to continue to be used as playing fields was introduced by Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing North, C) under the 10-minute rule procedure. The Local Authorities Playing Fields Bill was formally read a first time.

New bishop

The Bishop of Portsmouth, the Right Rev Timothy Ravin, was introduced in the House of Lords. His supporters were the Bishop of Chelmsford, the Right Rev John Waine, and the Bishop of Southwark, the Right Rev Ronald Bowers.

Royal Assent

Royal Assent was signified on the following Acts: Consolidated Fund; British Film Institute Southbank; Birmingham City Council.

Finance Bill

The Finance Bill, which gives effect to the proposals in the Budget, will be published on April 19. Mr Norman Lamont, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said in a written reply.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Northern Ireland; Prime Minister. Motions on community charge benefit regulations. Lords (3): Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill, committee, third day.

Jenkin blames misunderstanding and exaggeration

THE community charge was vigorously defended by a former Conservative Secretary of State for the Environment when it was debated in the House of Lords.

Lord Jenkin of Roding argued that there had been much misunderstanding, that the press had exaggerated the number of people refusing to pay and that county councillors, not facing elections this year, had increased spending unnecessarily.

Lady Stedman (SDP), opening the debate, said that ministers who were responsible for the community charge were in confusion. They were like the crew of a train whose brakes had failed and which they knew would hit buffers that could not absorb the impact.

"For most local authorities this is a year of all change. It would have been a bad year anyway because of the extent of disagreement between central government policy and local

government plans." Authorities, of all political colours, were facing and responding to pressures for increased services, particularly in education and social services. The Government had ignored the fact that every county had a duty to assess the services required, the cost of provision and ability to pay.

What the Government had done was to turn non-domestic rates into a national tax and then replace that part of local government income that used to come from such rates within the central grant.

Instead, it could have given a higher central grant and the remainder could have been met by a local income tax that would take account of ability to pay, be fairer, simpler and easier to understand and to administer.

Lord Colabrook (C) said that the whole system of local government finance was hideously complicated.

The Government should spend a great deal more time, energy and trouble in explaining it.

He hoped it would also go carefully into the whole basis of the standard spending assessment county by county.

If those two difficulties could be got out of the way, he believed the new system, which he supported, would have an easier ride.

Lady Robson of Kiddington (Lab Dem) said that student nurses would

get no rebate. That was one of the most unfair aspects of the new system. They had a grudge that the Government ought to deal with.

Lord Monson (Ind) said that when the present agitation was over, the poll tax would not be a nine-day wonder.

The non-progressive nature of it meant that it bore with particular harshness on those just above the rebate limits.

Many of those were skilled blue-

collar workers who had voted Conservative for the first time in 1979 and who might now be regretting it.

The Government should remove the petty unfairness which infuriated everyone - like the treatment of student nurses - and make the funding of education a central government responsibility.

Lord Jenkin of Roding (C) said that, contrary to some reports in the press, which had been totally

misleading and based on entirely false information, the great majority of people were paying their community charge.

Ninety-eight per cent in many areas had paid while the figure for arrears in Strathclyde was comparable with rates arrears there.

If they took the totality of local authority spending, the top 10 per cent of households by income were paying something like 15 times as much as the bottom 10 per cent. That was a larger differential than applied under rates.

What had gone wrong? Why the uproar? The answer lay overwhelmingly with the big increase in spending that local authorities had chosen this year to undertake. There were no county council elections this year so up went county council budgets.

In Scotland, the high increase in spending in year one had slackened off in year two.

Ministers refuse to give details

MINISTERS resisted repeated demands by Labour MPs at question time for details of how the Scottish Office would pay the £4 million community charge capital offset.

But Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Under Secretary of State for Scotland, said that reports that the £4 million would be taken from sensitive Scottish programmes were totally incorrect.

Earlier, ministers were taunted over reports that they had threatened to resign unless the £4 million was approved by the Cabinet in the wake of last week's Budget concession on the community charge in England and Wales.

Mr John Home Robertson (East Lothian, Lab) asked how the £4 million poll tax money would be distributed, and where it would come from.

What humiliation would it take before the Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr Malcolm Rifkind) resigned?

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton said that a full statement would be made to the House by Mr Rifkind on the details of the

SCOTLAND

scheme. The £4 million was a marginal part of the Scottish Office's resources of £9.5 billion. The money would be found as part of good housekeeping and not by deliberate cuts in any programme.

Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline West, Ind Lab) the issue was not just a matter of the Budget, it was a matter for the status of the Scottish Office. There was clear indications that the Scottish Office and its officials were not consulted.

Mr Brian Wilson, an Opposition spokesman on Scotland, asked if Lord James Douglas-Hamilton had threatened to resign thus forcing the Prime Minister back into line (loud laughter).

Wherever the £4 million came from, it should not come from local authority budgets within the Scottish office.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton said that none of the ministers in the Scottish Office had threatened to resign.

We live in a society awash with muck, says peer

"WE live in a society that is increasingly awash with muck", Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, leader of the Liberal Democrat peers, said when he opened a Lords debate on the Department of Trade and Industry report into the House of Fraser takeover.

The report was the most devastating since one published in 1976 into the affairs of Ladbroke, he said.

"I do not care who owns Harrods. I get along without the services of that emporium." Even if he was a customer, he would not expect the merchandise to be contaminated by

the ownership of the store. The decision last year by the Observer to publish a special report into the DTI report was not appropriate for a great national newspaper.

The public relations officer of the House of Fraser had behaved like a dancing dervish in his denunciation of the DTI inspectors. Whatever else Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, could be accused of, he could not be accused of behaving like that, but more like a recumbent pasha.

It was nonsense to suggest

that the fitness or otherwise of the Fayed brothers to be directors was a matter of concern only to House of Fraser shareholders.

Mr Ridley had based his central argument on "flip logic". Mr Ridley might be a man of intelligence and disdained courage, but sometimes he was a discreditable minister.

His decision was political rather than judicial, but he was not convinced by theories of conspiracy involving the Prime Minister with Eastern potentates and £5 billion of support for sterling.

People 'fear for NHS'

ONE of the reasons why many people had shifted their votes to Labour in the Mid Staffordshire by-election was their dissatisfaction with the way in which the Government was running the National Health Service and the underlying fear of the people about the service's future, Ms Kate Hoey (Vauxhall, Lab) said in a Commons debate late on Tuesday night.

"The Government will ignore that message at their peril", she said in opening a debate on National Health Service funding.

In trying to defend its record on the health service, the Government was trying to defend the indefensible because nearly one million people were waiting for hospital treatment.

As regional and district health authorities reached the end of the financial year, they faced the increasing need for money and had to struggle to keep within their cash-starved limits. The

first casualty was bed closures, so-called temporary closures which soon became permanent.

The Government was also inconsistent in its funding because it often put unacceptable burdens on local health authorities which provided services that were used nationally but did not get national funding.

There were examples of that at well known London hospitals. Patients came from far and wide to St Thomas's Hospital which had the country's only specialist respiratory unit, yet the health authority got no extra money from central funds for the unit, which cost £1,250,000 a year.

Mr Thomas Clarke, an Opposition spokesman on health, said that the Government might say that spending on the health service had increased since it came to power. But, in the light of inflation and demographic changes for instance, it would be astonishing if that were not so.

The Government had not taken account of inflation in funding.

The proportion of national wealth devoted to health under this Government was far less than the people thought it should be.

Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for Health, replying to the debate, said that the health and community health services had been cash limited for 15 years; Labour had started the process. There was an inevitable clash between finite resources and almost infinite demand.

In 1990-91 the health service in the United Kingdom would be spending £29,000 million, equivalent to £500 a man, woman and child in the UK.

However, 1990-91 would be a difficult year for many health service districts simply because inflationary pressures made the less generous that at the time of the settlement last year.

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Automatic rifles used by blacks in Natal clashes

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

SOUTH African army and police reinforcements have been rushed to townships in Natal in an attempt to quell heavy fighting between rival black political organizations, amid reports that the combatants are being armed with automatic rifles and hand grenades.

The alarm was raised yesterday when thousands of opposing "warriors" were seen converging on Edendale, near Pietermaritzburg.

Within an hour sporadic gunfire was heard and a huge pall of smoke spiralled from scores of blazing buildings. A senior police officer confirmed reports of shooting, and said: "It looks as if the whole area is burning."

The fighting was described as the most widespread so far in a simmering conflict between members of the conservative Inkatha organization and supporters of groups affiliated to the African National Congress (ANC). By mid-afternoon, local hospitals reported seven people killed and more than 50 wounded by gunshots. Reporters who toured the area by helicopter counted 132 houses on fire.

Informed sources said that both sides, which have traditionally fought with knives, clubs and home-made guns, were receiving clandestine supplies of Soviet-made AK47 assault rifles and grenades.

The source of the arms was not known.

Residents said Inkatha supporters were hijacking buses and using them as troop carriers for attacks, and their enemies were blocking streets with burning barricades. The director of a local refugee centre said: "It's bloody murder out there. It looks like a civil war."

Police who had promised to take reporters to the scene in armoured vehicles later cancelled the trip, saying it was too dangerous, and local newspaper editors prohibited their staff from entering the area.

Chief Mangosuthu Buthezi, Chief Minister of the KwaZulu tribal homeland and the leader of Inkatha, claimed that black South African soldiers were siding with ANC supporters and "running amok" against Inkatha members. Demanding that they be withdrawn, he said: "If they can't get white soldiers there, we don't want anyone there."

The fighting has fuelled speculation that a large body of militant black youths are opposed to moves towards a negotiated settlement between the Government and the ANC, and are effectively out of control and following local leaders. Youths in Natal are said to have removed portraits of Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC vice-president, from T-shirts and replaced them with

slogans lauding the ANC's armed wing and its Chief of Staff, Mr Chris Hani.

With strife mounting in black communities throughout the country, the mass of township dwellers appear unwilling to await the outcome of negotiations between the Government and the ANC which are scheduled to begin next month. Whether they lack faith in the ANC, or hope to strengthen its hand at the bargaining table, is not yet clear.

Mr Mandela repeated his appeal to teachers and pupils to call off a school boycott yesterday, but to no apparent effect. A teacher who attended the meeting addressed by Mr Mandela in Soweto said: "The crisis in black education is so serious that the time for listening is over. We demand action now."

Meanwhile, President de Klerk reaffirmed his resolve to abolish apartheid. Answering questions in Parliament, he said: "It is politically unacceptable and must be eliminated in an orderly manner. I have never defended the concept of apartheid in the 17 years I have been in this House."

Apartheid was "a concept which we have discarded long ago. There is still some statutory apartheid, but it is our goal to eradicate it... and we are in a hurry to do it."



Violence victim: Mr Nelson Mandela visiting a hospital patient injured in clashes with the police at Sebokeng

Fuel fears of crash pilot went unreported

Washington

WARNINGS from the pilot of the Avianca airliner that ran out of fuel and crashed while trying to land at Kennedy airport, New York, were never passed on to air traffic controllers, according to a newly released tape of conversations in the plane's cockpit.

Seventy-two people were killed in the crash of the Boeing 707 flight from Colombia on January 25.

The recording, released by the National Transportation Safety Board, showed some warnings of the Spanish-speaking pilot after he missed a first landing approach were not passed on to ground control by the English-speaking first officer.

When the plane missed its first approach, the pilot said: "We don't have fuel." But that was not reported to ground control, which was scheduling the plane to move out and circle for another landing.

Twice again the pilot said: "Tell them we are in emergency" and "Advise him we are emergency... did you tell him?" But the tape demonstrates this was not passed to the controller. Later, the pilot told his first officer: "Advise him we don't have fuel." The officer said: "We're running out of fuel, sir."

The controller said he was going to take the plane out to 15 miles. "Is that fine with you and your fuel?" The officer said: "I guess so, thank you very much." (Reuters)

French to outlaw alcohol and tobacco advertising

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

THE French Government has declared war on cigarettes and alcohol. Taking heed of health authority pleas for strong action, it announced yesterday that a law to be introduced banning, from 1993, all direct or indirect cigarette and tobacco advertising on television, in cinemas and in newspapers.

In addition, the price of cigarettes will rise by 15 per cent during next year. The proposed law will also ban all alcohol advertising for drinks containing more than 1 per cent alcohol - on television and cinema screens, and for good measure will make access to tranquillizers more difficult.

A full-page *Le Monde* advertisement yesterday, placed by the Health Ministry, said excessive cigarette and alcohol consumption causes the premature deaths of 300 people a day in France.

Cigarette and alcohol advertising on television is already banned. With this blanket interdiction - except for newspaper alcohol advertising - the Government is particularly anxious to reach young people.

The 20 minutes of advertising

that precedes the feature film in French cinemas is almost exclusively devoted to young, sexy, sun-drenched couples drinking beer - the advertisements are largely the same, only the brand names are changed - and young, bronzed, muscular, open-air sports enthusiasts smoking.

A statement put out by tobacco companies, including Philip Morris, Rothmans and BAT, yesterday said the cigarette price rise would have serious industrial repercussions because of a probable consumption drop of 10 per cent. It was unproven, the statement said, that lack of advertising affected cigarette smokers' habits.

The Government has also decided to increase revenue for cancer research and screening.

Le Pen charge: M Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the extreme right-wing National Front, has been charged, according to legal sources, with offensive behaviour over a pun linking a French Jewish minister's name with Nazi death camp crematoria (AFP reports).

M Le Pen was formally charged last Thursday at the

instigation of the Justice Ministry, three months after the European Parliament in Strasbourg voted to deprive him of his parliamentary immunity.

He provoked widespread reprobation when he referred, at a supporters' rally on September 2, 1988, to M Michel Durafour, the Minister of Public Services, as Michel Durafour-crematoire. The *four crematoires* were the ovens in which the victims of Nazi gas chambers were incinerated.

The leader of the National Front also faces prosecution over a remark in which he blamed the international Jewish lobby for fostering anti-national sentiment in France.

In the Durafour case, he faces between eight days and one year in prison with the option, or addition, of a maximum fine of 300,000 francs (£32,000).

An opinion poll published yesterday showed that 64 per cent of French voters were generally opposed to the National Front, although this figure was 13 points down from 1988, and 31 per cent said they agreed with the National Front on halting immigration.

Frightened South African whites map escape routes

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

WITH violence mounting in black townships in the Transvaal and Natal, foreign embassies are being inundated by emigration inquiries from frightened white South Africans.

Britain is by far the preferred sanctuary. The British Embassy received 13,000 inquiries about qualifications for British passports last month, compared with 8,000 in February last year, and the number of passports issued doubled to 2,000 a month.

An embassy spokesman estimated that 250,000 residents of South Africa have British passports, and that another 750,000 may qualify for them.

Canadian officials said they received 600 inquiries last month, double the normal rate, and the Australian Embassy issued 300 emigration information packages, compared with 170 in January.

There is so far no evidence of an actual exodus but, faced with political uncertainty and mounting anarchy, substantial numbers of whites are ev-

idently preparing contingency escape routes.

English-language newspapers have printed details of eligibility for British passports, of the "points system" operated by Canada, and of employment opportunities in Australia.

Any mass departure would reverse a three-year trend of net immigration to South Africa, with Britain accounting for the largest influx of more than 3,000 people.

Apart from the communal strife, whites are worried about being overwhelmed by a black population explosion. A rising demographic curve is expected to increase the total population from 38 million to 50 million by the turn of the century, with whites becoming a diminishing minority.

Dr Rina Venter, the Minister of Health and Population Development, said recently that, unless (black) birth rates were reduced in rural areas, population growth would become uncontrollable.

With South Africa already suffering from a critical short-

age of skilled manpower, the Government is relaxing immigration rules and head-hunting for professional people ranging from accountants to nuclear chemists. Hong Kong is a prime target, in view of the scheduled handover of the colony to China in 1997.

For the diehard Afrikaner who does not wish to leave his native land, Professor Carel Boshoff has an alternative suggestion. The son-in-law of Hendrik Verwoerd, the architect of apartheid, he has just completed a study to prove the viability of a white homeland in the arid wastes of the northern Cape and southern Namibia.

Undeterred by Namibia's recent independence, Professor Boshoff argues that his "Boer state" has sufficient infrastructure and water resources from three dams to support up to two million Afrikaners.

Unfortunately, the "non-whites" in the area already outnumber the whites by four-to-one.

Doctors end force-feeding of terrorists

Madrid

Only hours after the assassination of a doctor in Zaragoza who had forced-feed hunger strikers in jail to save their lives, his colleagues declared yesterday they would no longer try to help imprisoned terrorists (Juan Carlos Gumucio writes).

Dr Ramon Muñoz Fernandez was shot dead on Tuesday night by members of the "October 1 Anti-Fascist Revolutionary Group", better known as Grapo.

One of his killers was a woman posing as a patient, and his murder reinforced the belief that Grapo, making a comeback after five years, wants the hunger strikers to die and become martyrs.

Official use of English banned

Delhi - Uttar Pradesh, India's largest state, has banned English in government offices to try to remove it from its position of importance. The administration issued the ban to take immediate effect this week, ordering its bureaucracy to use only Hindi.

Citing a 1982 law, the order said the official use of English was against the state's language policy and should be stopped at once. (AFP)

Man accused of Sydney murders

Sydney - Police here, saying they had arrested Sydney's so-called "granny killer", yesterday charged a man, aged 58, with bludgeoning to death six elderly women in the city.

Mr John Glover was also charged with a seventh attempted murder. He was found unconscious, apparently through drink and pills, in the home of Joan Sinclair, aged 60, last week. She had been battered and strangled with her stockings. (AFP)

Anti-Mugabe supporters fear wave of retribution

From Jan Raath, Harare

THE townships around Harare are in mortal dread that Saturday, when Zimbabwe's general election results are announced, will see the start of "perming", a term adopted from hairdressing, because the effects are permanent.

It refers to the terrifying tactic adopted immediately after the last election in 1985, when thousands of supporters of the Zanu (PF) Women's League took to the streets and wreaked vengeance on anyone - including Zanu (PF) members - whom they suspected of having voted for the opposition.

The women marched into suspects' homes, dragged furniture into the street and threw the keys away. In most cases the occupants were beaten and at least a dozen died in the satellite townships south of the capital.

It was established by *The Times* then that the "perming" was occurring mostly in Zimbabwe's northern Mashonaland province, had been carried out on the explicit instructions of senior officials of the Zanu (PF) Central Committee. Police made no attempt to intervene - but they did allow groups of refugees to camp in the grounds of police stations.

The only prosecutions were those initiated by insurance companies in the cases of those lucky enough to afford policies.

This was followed by the humiliation of opposition supporters at rallies where they were forced, on bended knees, to confess to their "sins".

It has not emerged yet whether township party officials have compiled lists - as they did in 1985 - of suspects supporting any of the four opposition parties contesting the election, chiefly the Zimbabwe Unity Movement of Mr Edgar Tekere, formerly the

Zanu (PF) secretary-general. But fear that the horror of 1985 will be re-enacted prevails in the poorer townships dominated by lowly workers and the unemployed.

The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe, the body that has acted as the national conscience since the early days of UDI, warned yesterday that unless the current climate of violence and political intimidation was brought under immediate control, "we fear that the post-election events of 1985 could be repeated on a much more serious scale".

Mr Mugabe has the power to ensure it does not happen again. He is also doubtless aware that the post-election scene will be watched with intense interest. Unlike the violence during this five-week election campaign inflicted by passing gangs of youths in the shadows of the townships, it is highly visible.

The party political side of Mr Mugabe is the enigma in his character, and in direct contradiction to the erudite, articulate diplomat, negotiator and efficient technocrat who has adhered meticulously to the restraints imposed by the Lancaster House Constitution, retained the vigour of black Africa's most sophisticated economy and accedes readily to appeals from the genuinely aggrieved - if they are unrelated to party politics.

The most obvious testimony to a nature that will forgive is the continued and vocal existence of Mr Ian Smith, prosperously cattle ranching in the Midlands region and regularly sniping at Mr Mugabe.

Older former Mugabe confidantes see the violence that has accompanied much of his rule - from the murderous killings in the western province of Matabeleland during the 1982-87 guerrilla insurgency, through the 1985 elections, to the campaign just ended - as a manifestation of a deep sense of political insecurity.

"It's the same with any African leader," commented a black businessman, formerly part of the high command of Mr Mugabe's guerrilla army during the liberation war against the Government of Rhodesia.

"It's the same as the football teams who spend thousands on the services of agencies (spirit mediums) and traditional medicine as a voodoo to make sure they win. African leaders will never feel confident and will do everything in their power to win. They cannot tolerate uncertainty."

The main issue in the elections is Mr Mugabe's plan for a one-party state. In recent months he has repeatedly tried to justify what he sees as the necessity of abolishing political opposition, in the face of the changes in Eastern Europe. He argues that multi-party constitutions serve only to divide nations.



Mr Mugabe casting his vote in Harare yesterday

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Split still bedevils Thatcher and Kohl

From Ian Murray, Bonn

BRITAIN'S uneasy relationship with West Germany moves into a new phase round the sumptuous table at St Catherine's College, Cambridge, this evening when Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, and Mrs Thatcher make their after-dinner speeches marking 40 years of close consultation at the annual Königswinter conferences.

The personal relationship between the two leaders has often been awkward but, seen from here, it adequately mirrors the current relationship between the two countries.

Herr Kohl is heavy-handed but increasingly confident and powerful; Mrs Thatcher is adroit but increasingly wrong-footed and with diminishing influence.

Both will certainly do their utmost publicly to smooth over the differences and tensions which have developed since the idea of German reunification moved irresistibly on to the world's agenda, despite Mrs Thatcher's early insistence to the contrary.

Both leaders and both countries are having to make profound adjustments in the way they have regarded each other down the years, and those adjustments are proving traumatic.

A united Germany capable of dominating Europe is emerging and Britain, as a waning economic and political world power, is being made to come to terms with what is a particularly unpleasant change in status.

In the most significant part of her interview with *Der Spiegel* last Monday, Mrs Thatcher admitted: "We have to get used to the fact that in future there will be a country in Europe which will be stronger than all the others."

This realistic admission has come too late to stop her being typecast in West German minds as the villain of the piece. "What has Maggie got against Germany?" *Bild*, the mass-circulation daily, asked on its front page last month, going on to quote her as saying in December that it would be 10 to 15 years "at the earliest" before unity was possible.

The newspaper was outraged at her remark in January that East Germany had been under Nazi and then Communist rule since the 1930s and could therefore not be expected to change overnight into a democracy.

Herr Kohl appeared sufficiently piqued by her attitude not to include her in the consultations he had with her fellow leaders of the Second World War Allies before the East German elections.

Instead he sent Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, to Downing Street to placate her with details of the Ottawa agreement which established the "two-plus-four" formula for talks between the Germans and the wartime Allies.

For his part, Herr Kohl did nothing to calm Mrs Thatcher's expressed fears of a powerful Germany when he stubbornly refused to make a clear commitment to respect Poland's present western border.

Like Mrs Thatcher's own tardy acceptance of reunifica-

tion, the Chancellor's over-long delay on the border question soured relations.

But Herr Kohl is not likely to be very contrite. He still believes he was legally correct in all that he did, even if he was not very diplomatic about it. That he ordered a denial of Mrs Thatcher's claim in *Der Spiegel* — that he had told her he could not guarantee or recognize the frontier — reveals how touchy he still is on the subject.

At the same time he believes he is now in a position where he should be allowed to give advice — a reversal of the roles which he and his predecessors as Chancellor have often felt constrained to accept in dealing with British leaders since the war.

Today's summit will certainly concentrate on reunification.

In particular, the external aspects of a united Germany's Nato membership, the Polish border, allied rights in Berlin, and the question of whether there should eventually be a peace treaty formally ending the war between Germany and the Allies, will be on the agenda.

The last three of these are now matters for the experts, but the question of Nato is an intensely political argument.

The Chancellor insists that a united Germany must be a member, but his vision of the alliance's future role is changing far more rapidly than Mrs Thatcher will like.

The perception of the threat from the East is now so vague in West Germany that public opinion here would be happy to see the Bundeswehr drastically reduced in size, most foreign troops leave, an end to low-flying training and early negotiations on the removal of short-range nuclear missiles.

In the next two to five years West Germany will actually be prepared to pay to keep Soviet troops on East German territory.

At some early date a new European security system would emerge, guaranteeing the safety of all.

The Chancellor will argue that negotiating this kind of package would be an obvious reward for President Gorbachev and would ease his current difficulties.

Mrs Thatcher, however, remains as convinced as ever of the need for a strong Nato, although she must by now accept that the chances of an agreement to modernize the Alliance's short-range nuclear arsenal in 1992 are virtually non-existent.

Herr Kohl will be trying to persuade the Prime Minister that it is high time she agreed to bring Britain into the Exchange Rate Mechanism of the European Monetary System.

Most bankers here believe, with Mr Nigel Lawson, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, that this could cut inflation and produce the quick turnaround in the British economy that Mrs Thatcher needs to win the next general election.

At the risk of being told he is interfering in internal British affairs, Herr Kohl is feeling confident enough to give the Prime Minister advice to join early if she wants to win.



More skulls being unearthed yesterday from the newly found mass grave in the former Sachsenhausen concentration camp, used later as a Soviet detention centre

Nazi camp bears witness to the crimes of Stalin

From Anne McElvoy, Sachsenhausen

THE SPRING sun in the woods around Sachsenhausen dapples down on to the mounds of newly upturned earth. In a shallow trough two human skulls and fragments of thigh bone and rib face the sky, the latest grisly find to emerge from the sudden historical glasnost now sweeping East Germany.

The woods which surround the former Nazi concentration camp this week yielded their best kept secret with the discovery of graves of the victims of a Stalinist internment camp which took over from the Third Reich.

The authorities in Sachsenhausen are now faced with excavating the rest of the woods, but they already know what they will find.

"There is little doubt that this whole area is a mass graveyard," says Herr Wolfgang Titz of the Sachsenhausen Memorial Research Department.

He estimates that between 10,000 and 20,000 people died in the camp in the five years when the terror of the Nazi administration was replaced by that of Stalin's NKVD.

"We know that people were delivered here without trial, out of revenge or denunciation," he says. "Many had been here the first time round under the fascists and had no idea why they had been brought back."

He estimates that 2,000 prisoners died in the camp in the famine winter of 1946-1947 alone, but says that no one can begin to estimate the number of deaths for the five-year period.

The first find of human remains was made after the

department asked local people to come forward with information about the history of the camp after 1945.

It was research which, Herr Titz said, could not possibly have been undertaken before the political changes in East Germany.

"From school onwards we learnt of the heroic deeds and fraternal bond with the Soviet Union. We all had an idea what happened here after the war but no one ever mentioned it openly."

To wander around the deceptively tranquil woods of Sachsenhausen watching East Germans learning the truth about what they always suspected is to receive first-hand confirmation of the power of collective suppression.

The remaining mystery is whether the Russians, as locals suspect, carried out a campaign of annihilation at the camp. Many villagers say that they recall hearing shots in the woods at night. But accustomed to decades of suppressing their experiences they are wary of going on the record to give evidence about the period.

Frau Gerta Müller, aged 80, arrived yesterday carrying a home-brewed cross which she placed beside the open grave. She says she recalls catching sight of bodies lined up for burial "some time after the war had ended — then I ran away".

Herr Titz says that further excavations are essential to uncover the scale of Soviet atrocities in the area.

But it is doubtful whether the full truth about Stalin's camps in the Soviet zone will ever come to light.

Moves by Bonn to stem flood of refugees

From Ian Murray, Bonn

ALL ethnic German refugees now face restrictions on their right to enter West Germany and claim citizenship.

The Bonn Cabinet agreed yesterday that in future those arriving from anywhere but East Germany will first have to go through a registration and screening procedure to ensure that they really are entitled to come.

The Government said last week that it was ending the special benefits paid to East German settlers after July 1 since there is no longer any justification for the measures now East Germany is a democracy. Bonn hopes that reforms in other East European countries will also slow the number of ethnic Germans wanting to move to West Germany.

The continuing migration of people, largely from Poland, the Soviet Union and Romania, has scarcely slowed at all this year.

So far 99,203 have arrived this year in addition to the 151,000 from East Germany.

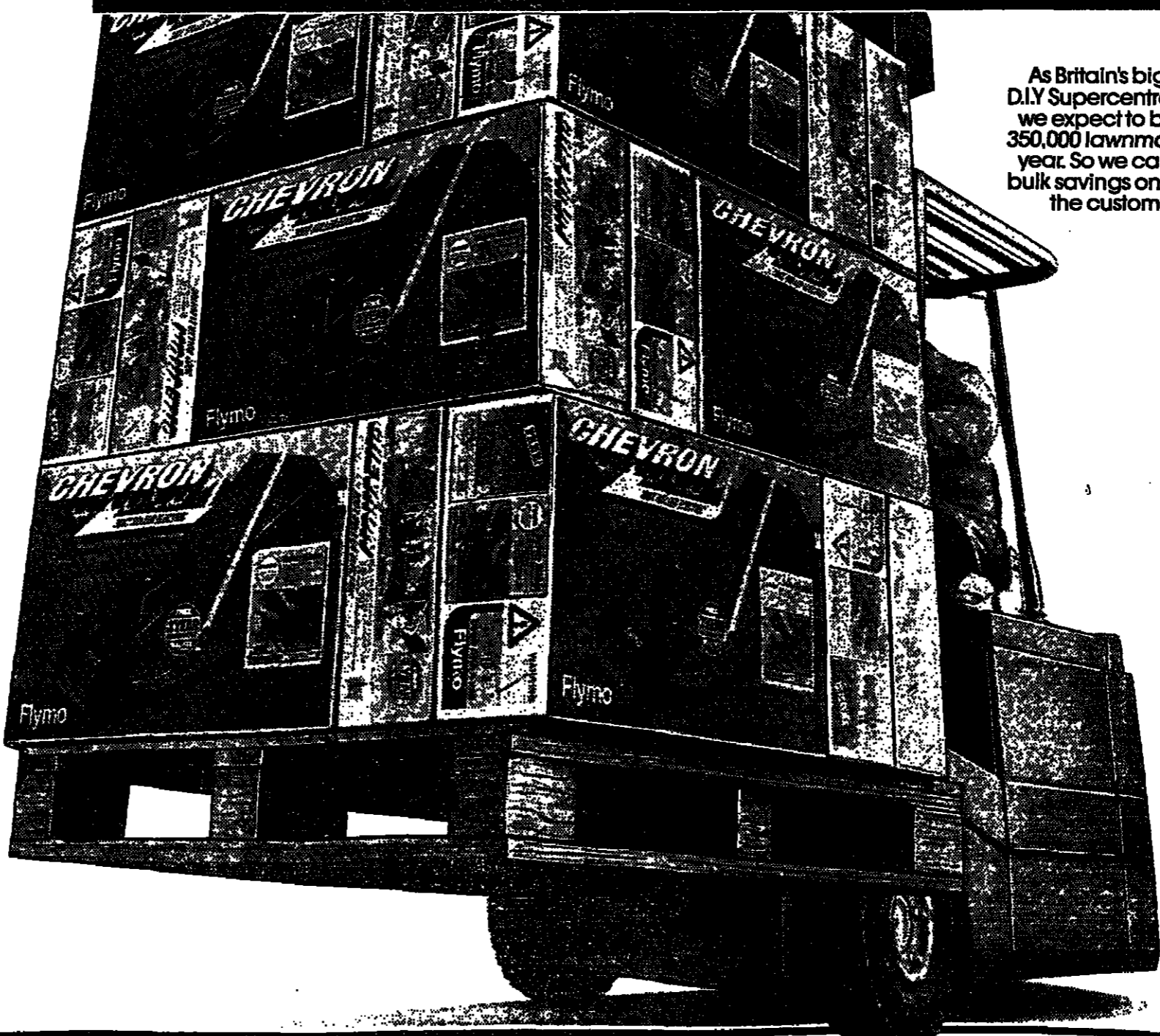
This adds to the total of 720,909 who came last year alone, so that almost a million refugees have now arrived in West Germany in just under 15 months. The inevitable social problems this is creating have forced the Government to start trying to block entry.

Officials are worried that the number of arrivals has started to rise again, following a big drop after the elections there 10 days ago. Yesterday the number rose above 1,000 for the second consecutive day, after dropping to just 200 a daily over the weekend.



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Honecker's elite may avoid trial

From Ian Murray, Bonn

CHARGES against Herr Erich Honecker, the former East German leader, and several former Politburo colleagues are likely to be dropped on health grounds, according to the deputy state prosecutor, Herr Lothar Reuter.

All but two of the Politburo members arrested on corruption and treason charges after they were forced from power have now been released under medical care. They are said to be sick, senile and confused to such an extent that it will probably be impossible for them to stand trial.

Apart from Herr Honecker, who has had surgery for cancer since he was forced to resign, the decrepit former despots include Herr Erich Mielke, aged 82, who ran the hated Stasi secret police for more than 20 years. He is said to be senile and paralysed.

Fervently, while charges against him are not now likely to proceed, the investigations into Stasi links of people he commanded is in full swing, although facing daunting difficulties. Investigators believe that, with KGB help, an undercover operation is still being organized through the communist party by Stasi-trained agents.

It is suspected of producing



Herr Mielke: Reported to be senile and paralysed

undetectable forgeries which are being slipped into records to suggest politicians had a criminal or Stasi past.

Among the other former leaders needing medical support are Herr Günter Mittag, the former economics supreme now in a prison hospital suffering from diabetes, and Herr Willi Stoph, who was Prime Minister and who is said to be so ill that he is on the verge of a total breakdown.

The investigations against the former Politburo are meant to be completed by the end of next month, when a final decision will be taken on whether to put them on trial.

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up bears to the Stalin

Estonians tread with care their road to freedom

From Anatol Lieven, Vilnius

ESTONIA is expected to declare independence from Moscow during the session of its supreme soviet beginning in Tallinn today.

There will, however, have to be considerable debate before a formal declaration can be made.

The position in Estonia is different from that which existed in Lithuania, mainly because the pro-independence forces there are not grouped in one powerful umbrella movement like Sajudis in Lithuania. Instead they are split between several different groups which appear not yet to have agreed on a common programme, so that negotiations will have to continue after the supreme soviet begins its sitting.

The groups, including the Popular Front, pro-independence Communists, the Agricultural Union and several smaller parties, have different views about the wisdom of immediately declaring outright independence and are in any event still struggling for power among themselves.

One reason being put forward by Estonian observers for advancing the parliament's opening from next Monday is the need for it to be seen to support Lithuania. But another may be that, by speeding up the political process, the Estonian Communist Party leadership, which is responsible for summoning the parliament, may have hoped to catch the other nationalist groups unprepared, thus ensuring that the existing Com-

munist government remains in power.

Moscow is believed to have been wooing the Estonian Communist leadership with the promise that the country will receive favourable treatment if they negotiate their way to independence instead of declaring first, negotiating second.

One proposal is that, instead of declaring full sovereignty, the supreme soviet should be content with suspending the Soviet Constitution in Estonia and establishing a provisional constitution pending the creation of an Estonian constituent assembly. Negotiations with Moscow could proceed on the basis of this provisional constitution.

The supreme soviet can, under Soviet law, introduce constitutional changes if it wishes. Opponents of independence, grouped behind the Soviet loyalist movement, won only 26 seats, including four reserved for the Soviet armed forces, out of 105 in the new supreme soviet, and are thus powerless to block a two-thirds vote for change.

Estonian leaders have in the past emphasized the wisdom of strengthening Estonia's economic independence and ties with the West before declaring political independence. These preconditions, they maintained, should be established through negotiation with Moscow.

Lithuania's declaration of

independence — and the pressure from Moscow which it provoked — has, however, created a strong "shame factor" in the other two Baltic republics. "Our people feel that they have to help the Lithuanians," Toomas Liiv, an Estonian journalist, said.

A Western expert on the Baltic area declared, less charitably, "Remembering the old element of competition between these peoples, if the Lithuanians declare independence and the others hang back, the Lithuanians will be reminding them of the fact a thousand years from now."

Also standing in the way of an immediate declaration of independence in Estonia is the question of which assembly should make it. An increasing number of nationalists say that the right to do so belongs to the Estonian Congress, a body elected in February only by citizens of the pre-1940 Estonian republic and their descendants, effectively excluding the vast majority of most of the Russians settled in the country.

Perhaps the most important long-term factor affecting independence, in fact, is the larger proportion of Russians and Russian-speakers in Estonia — where they make up 39 per cent of the population — than in Lithuania.

There is considerable fear among Russian workers about the consequences of independence — particularly over how it would affect their jobs — and the belief that it might be used to force them out of Estonia.



A show of might: Soviet paratroops boarding a transport aircraft during military exercises in Vilnius yesterday, keeping pressure on Lithuania to abandon its stand

Gorbachov can count on room to manoeuvre

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

NOW THAT Moscow has consolidated its position in Lithuania with the recapture of Communist Party buildings, and the increased guard on strategic objects, there are signs that a lull has set in which could presage what President Gorbachov called "dialogue".

Addressing the first meeting of his newly formed Presidential Council on Tuesday, Mr Gorbachov said he hoped that a meeting of the other new body associated with the executive presidency, the Council of the Federation, could be held before the end of the week.

The Council of the Federation will comprise the presidents and prime ministers of all the Soviet Union's republics and would be the sort of forum which the Soviet leader could use either to set conditions for "dialogue" or to sanction further pressure.

In view of the Lithuanian leadership's continued defiance, Mr Gorbachov's options seem limited, especially after the public warnings conveyed earlier in the week from President Bush and Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts.

If Moscow used force, the Soviet leader was told, it could forget about progress in arms control, trade or technological exchange — all areas in which the Soviet Union appears desperate to improve co-operation.

President Gorbachov probably has more room for manoeuvre than it appears, however.

The amount of force used so far may prove adequate to keep Lithuania under Soviet control, at least in the short term — and no foreign state has described the measures taken so far as the use of military force.

Much has been said about President Gorbachov's "difficult position". His image abroad has survived more or less intact.

The US threat to freeze arms control agreements, trade and technological exchanges would undoubtedly hamper Soviet economic development. But the damage could well be less than many have predicted.

Some Western diplomats in Moscow argue that the subsidies and credits the Soviet Union would need to make any significant improvement in its parlous economic situation are so colossal, that the loss of co-operation with the United States would make little difference. It might even help to improve economic performance by fostering a mood of Russian national defiance.

It may also be doubtful whether the West could isolate the Soviet Union economically any more effectively than it has already isolated itself through its own restrictions on

foreign trade and its non-convertible currency. Developments in Eastern Europe, which stand to deprive the Soviet Union of any benefits it derived from the Comecon economic arrangements, could actually help Moscow.

Not all these countries gave to Moscow more than they got, and the majority will be seeking a market for their goods until they can meet world manufacturing standards.

The greatest damage to Moscow would probably be inflicted not by economic sanctions, but by the threatened halt to the arms control process. This could have two effects. It could prevent the Soviet Union from transferring more resources to the civilian sector — so exacerbating the economic crisis — but it could also shift the balance in the political leadership in favour of the military and so possibly endanger Mr Gorbachov's position.

His carefully cultivated international image would be the other chief victim of the use of force in Lithuania. But again, the potential damage could have been exaggerated. Even after the use of paratroops to occupy key buildings, Western governments are continuing to urge restraint on both sides.

There is a view which would distinguish between the use of force to preserve the integrity of the Soviet Union, and force used beyond the Soviet borders — in Eastern Europe or Afghanistan. The "liberation of Eastern Europe" moreover, has given Mr Gorbachov an amount of political capital which might more than balance the losses from military action in the Baltic.

In the Soviet Union, opinion would probably divide unequally between a majority who would praise tough action against wayward republics as overdue, and a minority who would stand up for the right — especially of the Baltic states — to secede. This need not undermine Mr Gorbachov's political position, however, as those who would oppose force are already members of the unofficial opposition — radical deputies in the Inter-Regional Group of parliamentarians.

The best argument against using force in Lithuania, or any other republic, probably has little to do with foreign pressure or with the preservation of Mr Gorbachov's image, but a great deal to do with the Soviet experience in Eastern Europe. The past six months have shown that the use of force and oppression was in the long term counter-productive: it only increased economic inefficiency and resentment, and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, has said so publicly several times.

Now he is back in Moscow from his African tour, perhaps his counsel will prevail.

Sweden backs Moscow

Stockholm has described the Soviet treatment of Lithuania as responsible and compared it favourably with the United States invasion of Panama last December. Mr Sten Andersson, the Foreign Minister, told the TT Swedish news agency that, under the 1975 Helsinki accords on European security and co-operation, changes in frontiers must be negotiated.

"The Soviet Union has, despite everything, displayed a style which no other major power has done hitherto. Take the United States and Panama for example," he said, referring to the American invasion of Panama that ousted General Manuel Antonio Noriega. He did not elaborate. Sweden was the first country after Nazi Germany to recognize the Soviet incorporation of the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in 1940.

(Reuters)

Congress outraged over inaction on Lithuania

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

MRS Yelena Bonner, the widow of Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet human rights activist, has appealed directly and emotionally to President Bush to recognize Lithuania, adding to a growing congressional clamour for the White House to declare its unequivocal support for the Baltic republic's immediate independence.

However, Mrs Bonner's appeal coincided with a decision by the Administration to tone down its comments on Soviet conduct in Lithuania for fear of inflaming what Mr Martin Fitzwater, the President's press secretary, called a "very complex, delicate diplomatic situation". It has refused to comment even on Tuesday's violent seizure of Lithuanian army depots.

According to Administration officials quoted in reports here yesterday, the White House has taken a fundamental decision that continued progress towards democracy in Eastern Europe and reform in the Soviet Union outweigh Lithuania's demands for independence. It would be prepared to jeopardize that progress only if President Gorbachov ordered a bloody crackdown.

Mr Bush was looking "at the very, very large picture", said one official. "We don't want to exacerbate what is already a very, very serious problem for Gorbachov."

The New York Times reported that the White House has drawn up a series of possible responses to a Soviet

military crackdown, the most serious of which is cancellation of the Washington summit planned for this June.

Mrs Bonner, who is visiting her children in Massachusetts, noted in a surprisingly bitter statement that the US had for 50 years considered the Soviet annexation of Lithuania unlawful. "Was such a statement just empty words that deceived the American people and the whole world?" she asked.

"Only actions can answer this question — by immediate recognition of the Republic of Lithuania and the establishment of diplomatic ties with it. The US, because of its unique role in the world, and you, Mr President, have a grave historic responsibility."

On Capitol Hill both Democrats and Republicans, outraged by the round-up of army

deserters and mindful of how Mr Bush made overtures to China in the wake of last June's Tiananmen Square massacre, strongly criticized the White House's refusal to stand behind Lithuania.

"Gorbachov has swept away our good sense. The test is here, and if the US backs down now then we've betrayed our heritage," said Republican Senator Alfonse D'Amato of New York.

"The Lithuanian people have showed they know something about backbone. Now is the time for us in America to show we know something about backbone," said a Californian Democratic congressman, Mr Christopher Cox.

Mr John Miller, a Republican congressman from Washington state, said: "I think Bush faces a revolt in the Congress that could be greater eventually than the one over China."



Mrs Bonner: Direct appeal for President Bush's support

Peking is hopeful of Soviet accord on troop cutbacks

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

CHINA anticipates an accord on troop reductions along the Sino-Soviet frontier when Mr Li Peng, the Prime Minister, visits Moscow next month.

Mr Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, said yesterday that Mr Li would be discussing measures to build mutual trust along the border.

Peking is bitterly at odds with Moscow over the collapse of communist power in the East bloc. Mr Li is expected to reach agreement with the Kremlin on the reduction of border troops and on development of economic and cultural ties. Mr Qian said at a press conference in Peking yesterday.

Significantly, he did not mention party-party relations, which were normalized along with state relations when President Gorbachov visited Peking for a chaotic summit meeting with Mr Deng Xiaoping, the paramount leader, last May.

Diplomats believe that inter-party ties are at their lowest ebb since the Sino-Soviet split of the early 1960s. Mr Qian said that the visit would take place late next month, but the date was still under discussion. It is believed the Chinese wish that the visit did not have to take place at all, but cancelling now would be an embarrassing break with protocol.

The visit, returning Mr Gorbachov's trip to Peking, was agreed months ago.

In recent months, confidential Chinese Communist Party documents have condemned Mr Gorbachov's policies and the changes in Eastern Europe as a betrayal of socialism.

The documents argue that if the Chinese leadership had not used force against anti-government demonstrators last June, chaos would have reigned in China, as it does now in the Soviet Union.

At the same press conference, Mr Qian said that Sino-British relations were "gradually moving in a favourable direction", and would be "further improved" after the mini-constitution for Hong Kong after 1997 is passed by the Chinese Parliament next week. In a chilling warning to those who are seeking human rights guarantees in Hong Kong, he said that "using human rights as an excuse to interfere in other countries' internal affairs" must be prevented.

Serbian police 'used illegal bullets against Albanians'

From Dassa Trevisan, Belgrade

AN INTERNATIONAL human rights group has accused Serbian police of using "dum dum" soft-nosed bullets, which expand on impact, against Albanian protesters during demonstrations in the Kosovo region last month. At least 28 people, all ethnic Albanians, were killed in the demonstrations.

At a press conference the chairman of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, Count Carl von Schwarzenberg, who has visited the region with other members, including a doctor and a forensic expert, and met both Serbians and Albanians, said the records of more than 100 casualties showed "an alarming number of victims" had been shot in the back and in the head. Many of the wounds had been inflicted by high-velocity expanding bullets, sometimes called dum-dum. Another member of the group, Miss Hester Minnema, told reporters that this type of ammunition was forbidden even for military purposes.

The group and another human rights group, the Helsinki Watch, were not able, however, to ascertain the possible causes of the epidemic which last week affected almost 3,000 Albanians, but criticized the Yugoslav authorities for rushing out a statement which excluded all possibility of poisoning or of epidemics and said the poison scare was "psychological warfare" intended to provoke new unrest among the Albanian population.

During their visit to the region they were able to examine five cases but found that only one appeared to be seriously ill.

The Yugoslav authorities had earlier come up with a statement claiming that all the tests carried out were negative and that there were no cases of poison or epidemic.

Since then the Serbian police have taken over direct control over the regional police force, unleashing a purge among police and security forces. This began with 75 police officials being purged on charges of failing to protect Serbs or joining in assaults against Serbs.

Meanwhile, in the troubled Kosovo region thousands of Albanians kept off the streets in response to a call to mark with silence the first anniversary of Serbia extending its jurisdiction and curbing the region's autonomy. At the same time the first anniversary of the action which triggered Albanian protests in which more Albanians were

killed was celebrated in Belgrade as a day when Serbia regained its historic territory.

The situation has steadily deteriorated since then. Instead of restraining the exodus of Serbs it has further accelerated it, with almost 2,000 Serbs moving out of the region. The Serbian populist leader, Mr Slobodan Milosevic, is seeking to reverse this trend. A new colonization drive has been launched which is intended to lure 100,000 Serbs to settle in the region. At the same time Serbia is threatening to expel some 700 Albanian immigrants. All this has further heightened the Albanians' sense of being under threat.

The International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights has accused the Serbian authorities of conducting a punitive policy towards ethnic Albanians. In its annual report it said: "It is a frightening example of the power of one party dictatorship, the full weight of a police state controlled by one ethnic group unleashed against another."

It concluded that the present Serbian policy amounts to the imposition of a colonial regime while repression had led to a widening gap, hatred and mistrust between the two communities.

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Golan becomes a bridge for Arab talks with Israel

From Christopher Walker, Quneitra

AFTER years as the forgotten front in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Golan Heights are back under the diplomatic spotlight as a result of former President Jimmy Carter's surprise disclosure that President Assad of Syria is now prepared to negotiate their future with Israel.

Conquered by Israeli forces in 1967, one-third of the commanding, semi-mountainous region was returned to Syria in 1974 after some deft negotiating by Dr Henry Kissinger and two-thirds remains in Israeli hands.

At some points like this forlorn ghost town, destroyed by Israeli bulldozers and dynamite just 10 days before being handed back, Arab and Jewish soldiers are less than 500 yards apart, divided by a deadly minefield deceptively carpeted with spring flowers and white-blossomed almond trees.

Under the snow-capped peak of Mount Hermon, they stare at each other with hatred and suspicion through powerful mounted binoculars and eavesdrop via a battery of electronic listening devices. Despite the fierce oratory from Damascus and Jerusalem and the 1982 war in which Israel wiped out much of Syria's Air Force, the US-brokered treaty on the Golan which came into effect on June 26, 1974, has remained intact and an impressive model of how enemies can be prevented from fighting.

A complex list of clauses restrict the numbers of tanks, artillery pieces and soldiers either side is allowed to maintain near the precarious buffer zone and strictly prevents them from installing missiles within 15 miles of it.

But further back, formidable armoured forces are in position as a constant reminder of how grim any future conflict could become.

Yesterday a group of Syrians stood and watched an Israeli patrol drive by almost in stone-throwing distance. "The bastards, they are sitting on our land and they claim that it is theirs," one of the group said. "They have got to

remember that there will never be peace in this region until we have got our land back."

Clearly visible, even to the naked eye, across the strip of no man's land patrolled by a United Nations force drawn from Finland, Austria, Poland and Canada was a large, provocative sign which was a reminder that the territory on the Israeli side was annexed by Mr Menachem Begin, then Prime Minister, in 1981.

"Welcome to Israel," it declared in English letters no doubt intended to infuriate all the Syrians who could see them. Farther back, industrious Jewish settlers were busy cultivating rich soil once regarded as some of the most fertile and best irrigated in rain-starved Syria.

The gesture from Damascus, which had previously fervently denounced the chances of any negotiations over the Golan before achieving its now abandoned goal of "strategic parity" with its heavily armed Jewish neighbour was extracted by Mr Carter during seven hours of talks with Mr Assad, one of the Middle East's wildest political survivors.

Mr Carter, the chief architect of the Camp David peace accords between Israel and Egypt, made clear that Mr Assad was offering to negotiate over the Golan only under the overall umbrella of an international Middle East peace conference.

"It was the first time he offered to sit down to bilateral discussions on the Golan at such a conference. It followed



clear hints that Syria was now prepared to look to the Golan becoming a demilitarized zone", a European diplomat explained.

The Syrian offer was accompanied by reports that both countries are already involved in secret talks. Although the leaks were fervently denied by both parties, a well-placed United Nations source confirmed yesterday that "informal" talks between them had been going on.

Despite the contemptuous rejection of the Syrian offer by Israeli government officials, it struck a number of harmonious chords inside Israel. The *Jerusalem Post*, now under new editorial control and much less inclined to dovish positions, argued: "Sitting down with Syria is... a far more realistic first step towards the solution of the conflict" than negotiations with the PLO - direct, circuitous or camouflaged - over unbridgeable positions.

Analysts in Damascus were convinced that the 60-year-old Syrian leader allowed the former US President to publicize his shift in policy both to counter Kremlin criticism of his inflexibility and to signal dramatically to Arab allies and the PLO that Syria and the Golan cannot be left out of any future peace agreement.

With the Golan's rural calm disturbed yesterday only by the barking of wild dogs and twittering of birds, part of the former war zone has been left as a Syrian monument to the scorched-earth tactics of the retreating Israeli Army. Nothing has been done to repair the shattered town of Quneitra, only 37 miles from Damascus and once home to 53,000 Arab residents.

A few miles away is the border fence through which members of Druze Arab families divided by the occupation shout at each other at a distance of 200 yards through megaphones in a bizarre ritual which takes place every fortnight. Some 15,000 Syrian Arabs are still living rebelliously under Israeli military rule, refusing to budge from their four villages.

On alert for victims of Spain's danger route



SEÑORITA María José Canete, the owner of a Spanish air rescue service, stands in the foreground as her life-saving helicopter hovers just behind her.

Señorita Canete operates her service on Europe's most dangerous stretch of road, the National Route N340, which each year on its 75-mile

stretch from Málaga to Algeiras on the Costa del Sol claims a victim for every kilometre (David Young writes).

The victims have included many British tourists. Until a year ago anyone injured in an accident on this stretch faced a long journey by ambulance to the only major hospital

in the area, in Málaga. However, with the introduction of Señorita Canete's *Helicopteros Sanitarios* the trip to hospital can now take just a few minutes.

Señorita Canete is believed to be the only woman in Europe operating such a service. She employs three doctors and three pilots to provide 24-

hour coverage. Her helicopter can carry two stretcher cases and has a full range of emergency medical equipment.

The Spanish Cabinet recently gave the go-ahead for improvements to the road which by comparison makes the M25 seem as safe as the front drive at Chatsworth House.

Gunmen kill missionary in Lebanon

From A Correspondent, Jerusalem

AN AMERICAN missionary working in south Lebanon was shot dead by masked gunmen as his horrified family screamed for help, police officials said yesterday.

The victim of the attack, in the south Lebanese village of Rashaya Foukhar, was Mr William Robinson, aged 56, an evangelical Christian who has run aid programmes for disabled and mentally retarded children in Lebanon since 1983.

The Lebanese National Resistance Front, which has repeatedly claimed that it has attacked Israeli troops who occupied the territory from

1983 to 1985, admitted responsibility for the murder.

Security sources in south Lebanon and Christian friends in Israel said Mr Robinson had angered local Shia Muslims by trying to buy land to expand his facility.

Only this month 5,000 residents of the area petitioned the Lebanese Government, accusing Mr Robinson of trying to set up an Israeli settlement in the village. Israel denied the allegation.

The shooting occurred at 8.30pm on Tuesday, according to officials at the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, which polices the region under

a UN mandate. They said three masked men broke into Mr Robinson's home, tied up his wife and four children and then shot Mr Robinson three times.

Neighbours ran for UN help when they heard the family's screams.

Mr William F. Wolford, administrator of the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem, which assists various Christian groups in Israel, said Mr Robinson operated on funds donated by Christians mainly in America.

More than 20 children were being taken care of by the Robinson family. Asked why

Mr Robinson stayed in Lebanon, Mr Wolford said: "He stayed because there was no other place to take care of these children."

Arab killed: Masked men murdered a fellow Arab in a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, in an attack reportedly carried out by 50 Palestinians armed with axes and knives. The victim, Mr Yasser Kazmou, aged 32, had worked as the UN service director in the Nur Shams refugee camp near the town of Tulkarem. Six other family members were wounded in the assault, including Mr Kazmou's 70-year-old father.

Couple murdered in Liberia

Abidjan, Ivory Coast

AN ELDERLY American missionary and his British wife were killed in Liberia, where government troops fighting rebels have murdered hundreds of civilians, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

Villagers found the bodies of the Rev Tom Jackson and his British wife, June, yesterday in Bahr, their home village in eastern Nimba county. Sketchy initial reports indicate that villagers fled from Bahr when government soldiers entered the compound, but the missionaries, who were white, remained.

"It is not yet known who was responsible for the killings," said one diplomat. "Very little information is available because roads to the village have been cut off by the fighting." The conflict has spread in the past two weeks, and Nimba has been cut off from neighbouring provinces.

Refugees who fled to Monrovia last week said troops have burnt down villages and killed an unknown number of people.

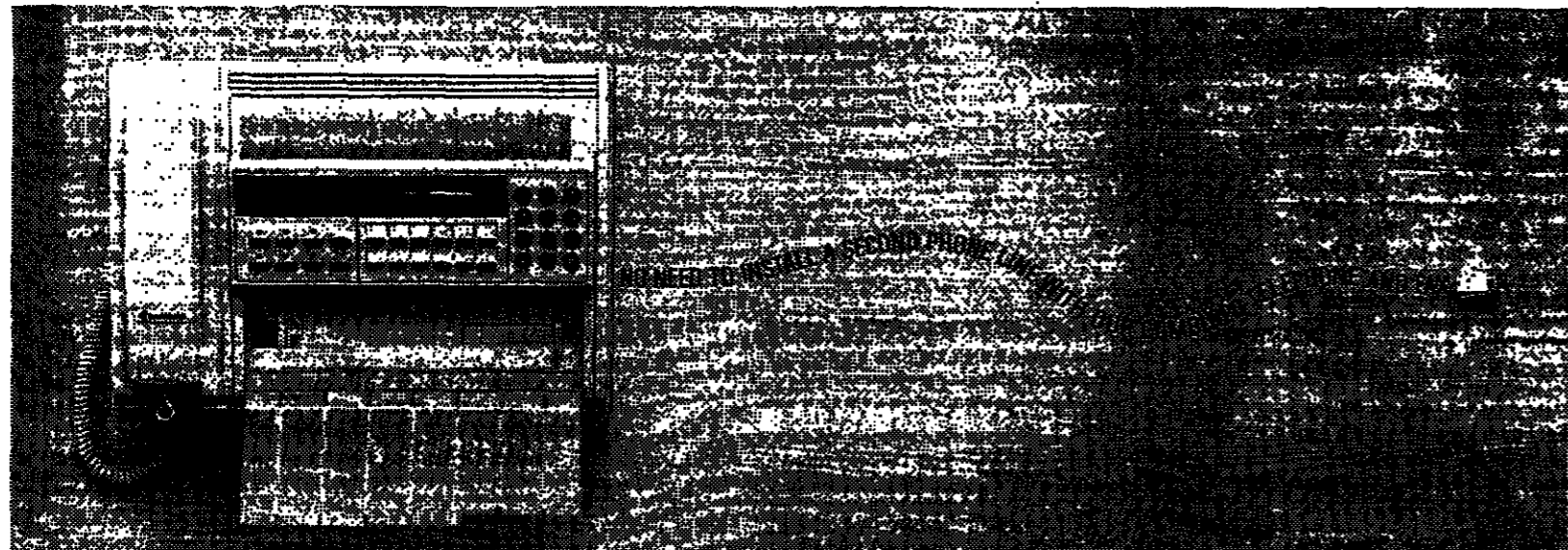
The US and British embassies in Monrovia yesterday advised their citizens working as missionaries and at an iron mine in Nimba to leave the region immediately.

The murdered couple belonged to the US-based United Liberian Inland Church and had lived in Liberia for 40 years, translating the Bible into the local Gio and Mano languages.

Mrs Jackson was from Croydon, Surrey. The couple were believed to be in their sixties.

Western diplomats and international human rights organizations say soldiers have killed hundreds of civilians since they were deployed in Nimba to crush rebels led by a former civil servant, Mr Charles Taylor. (AP)

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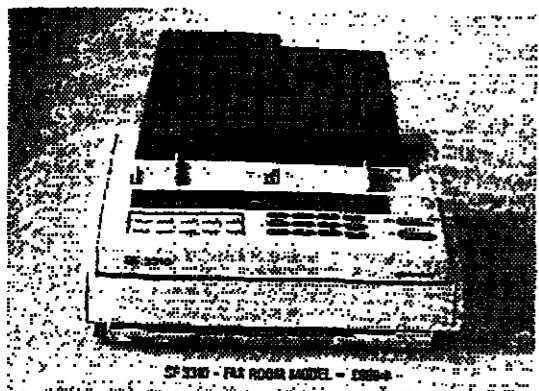
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Greece seeks EC aid over drought

From A Correspondent, Athens

GREECE is turning to God and the European Community for help in coping with the prolonged drought, after three years of below-average rainfall. Government officials estimate that there is sufficient drinking water only until November for the approximately four million residents of the greater Athens area.

Two artificial lakes, which supply the Greek capital - one near ancient Marathon and the other at Eliki on the east coast - are at the lowest levels ever recorded.

Mr George Iliadis, the Agriculture Minister, currently attending an EC farm ministers meeting in Luxembourg, has asked for emergency assistance.

An Agriculture Ministry official said yesterday the country was "on the brink of a national disaster and unless it rained within the next 30 days the damage to agriculture will be incalculable".

Experts believe that the current wheat crop would be

reduced by half a million tons this year resulting in a loss of 15 billion drachmas (£60 million) and, if the drought continues, wheat farmers will face total catastrophe and a loss of more than 100 billion drachmas.

But while the Government looks to Brussels for financial aid the Church of Greece was trying to use its influence with a "higher authority".

In a circular to churches throughout the country, it has called for prayers and *Te Deums* for rain after Mass this Sunday. "We hope the Almighty will answer our prayers and open up the heavens," a Church official said.

Island dispute: Turkey has ordered the demolition of a disputed embankment, built by villagers on an island in the river Evros, and assured Greece that neither the Turkish Government nor the local authorities were responsible for the embankment, which it said would be destroyed immediately.

US rape victim praised for publicizing attack details

From James Bone, New York

A WOMAN, aged 29, from a small town in Iowa has challenged the way America treats rape victims by telling her story in explicit detail to a Midwestern newspaper.

Her decision to go public has sparked a fresh debate about whether, by withholding names of rape victims, society is merely perpetuating the notion that the crime is the worst thing that can happen to a woman.

Mrs Nancy Ziegenmeyer, of Grinnell, Iowa, decided to speak out after reading a column about the press coverage of rape in the *Des Moines Register*, the state's largest newspaper, by Geneva Overholser, its editor.

"As long as rape is deemed unspeakable - and is therefore not fully and honestly spoken of - the public outrage will be muted as well," Miss Overholser wrote.

Mrs Ziegenmeyer, who runs a day-care centre, called Miss Overholser and said she would like to tell the story of how she was raped some nine months earlier, in all its horrifying detail.

her, Mrs Ziegenmeyer told all in five front-page articles in the *Register*.

The series covered her whole experience, from the moment Smith confronted her as she sat in her car, studying for an examination, to his ultimate conviction, chronicling her treatment by the police, doctors and prosecutors along the way.

Of her husband, she said: "When we made love, he was very careful. He held me. If I cringed, he always asked - he still asks - was he doing something that reminded me of the attack?" Miss Overholser insisted that graphic detail was not edited out of the stories, lest the rape appear a mere "wrestling match".

Instead of the expected storm of criticism, the series won almost universal praise.

"As awful a story as it was, it shows us it is more than just a story, a real person was raped," wrote one woman reader. "Nancy's willingness to tell us what happened and the *Register's* agreeing to print it are important events." Mrs Ziegenmeyer received one personal letter from a 26-year-old who said she had been raped 11 years earlier and had

been unable to find a boy friend since.

"I am in awe of your strength and courage," she wrote. "I hope that you are the first link in the chain of recovery. I think I never really believed that other people like me existed. Rape victims never have a name or face. You are helping me find mine."

The last woman to cause a stir by going public about having been raped was the actress Kelly McGillis, the star of *Accused*, a film about a barroom rape modelled on a real event in Massachusetts, who revealed in an interview last year that she was raped while a student.

Though Mrs Ziegenmeyer's disclosures have prompted an emotional debate, many feel there are yet more pressing problems with society's treatment of rape.

This week Mr Clayton Williams, the Republican candidate in the forthcoming election for the Texas governorship, was forced to apologise for comparing rape to bad weather on his ranch. "If it's inevitable, just relax and enjoy it," he said. He later described the remark as a joke.

Peru turns to a writer for escape from chaos

With Peru's presidential election 10 days away, Alan Franks examines the credentials of the leading candidate, the novelist Mario Vargas Llosa. He finds a man about to swap fiction for the even more outrageous twists of reality.

MANY novelists have experienced the mixed pleasure of seeing their work turned into film. It is a wholly different proposition for one to see his fiction cross the dangerous but unguarded border into the terrain of a presidential election and to find himself as chief protagonist in a thickening political plot.

Yet this is precisely what is happening to Peru's foremost author, Mario Vargas Llosa, in the closing stages of his campaign as the Frente Democrático (Democratic Front) candidate.

So convincing is his lead in the opinion polls, and so divided is the opposition mounted from the left, that he is now strongly tipped to secure the necessary 50 per cent of the vote on April 8 or, failing that, to beat the second placed candidate in the present field of 10 in a two-hour run-off on June 3.

For Señor Vargas Llosa, who celebrated his 54th birthday yesterday, the stakes are even higher than for his most recent and much-compared predecessor, Mr. Vladislav Havel of Czechoslovakia.

Peru has become a nation knocked senseless by internal violence which verges on civil war. Whether the blame can be laid at the feet of the military government which failed to implement its promised reforms 22 years ago, or of the Maoist guerrilla movement Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), the fact is that some 15,000 of the country's citizens have met violent deaths in the last 10 years.

On the face of it a nation which has reached such a pass looks as if it is trying to ape fiction by turning to a novelist for its salvation. Yet there is a consistency here; if Señor Vargas Llosa belongs to the so-called "magical realism" school of writing, he does so for the very reason that, in trying to render the soul of his native land, he feels compelled to find a style that matches the subject. And the subject of present-day Peru is shot through with surrealism.

To begin with, there is the spectral figure of Abimael Guzmán, the fat professor who leads the Shining Path. He has not been seen in public for 10 years, but between rumours of his death there are sightings reported with enough credibility to keep his menace intact.

From the literary as from the political viewpoint, he is a fitting adversary to the suave and cosmopolitan Señor Vargas Llosa, with his European suits and dashing good looks. In fact, if you read the man from his fiction, you find him drawn to Guzmán-like figures — anarchists with pretensions to speaking for the oppressed — as though they represented some dark side of his own complex self.

This is a conclusion supported by Mr. Andrew Gra-

ham-Youll, an authority on South American culture and a member of the staff at the London office of *Index on Censorship*. "The tradition, of which Vargas Llosa is naturally aware," he says, "is that you pay your respects to this opposition, and then you go out and try to destroy them."

Then there is the lunacy of hyper-inflation, which last year stood at 2,800 per cent. This is largely the result of President Alan García's decision to withhold interest payments on the \$3.7 billion foreign debt, which in turn led to Peru being cut off from further foreign loans, and the growth of the budget deficit.

As with Mr. Havel, many of the writer's admirers deplore his move into active politics, and view it not merely as a career shift but as a dereliction of his vocation. He himself has said that in running for office he is intending to "accomplish a public service, to keep the democratic system alive... But to become a President is really a great, great sacrifice."

As a preoccupation, the politics of Peru have claimed his attention right from the days when he started writing as a young man in the 1950s, living from hand to mouth for 18 years in Madrid, Paris and London. As an active pursuit they remain unfamiliar, and his critics make capital of his alleged naiveté. Yet he has been courted before; in 1984 he was invited to become Prime Minister by Señor García's predecessor, President Belaúnde. Señor Vargas Llosa thought about it for a day before turning it down.

It was three years later when, profoundly shocked by the news that Señor García was intending to nationalize the banks, he decided to marshal the counter-arguments and set up the *Libertad* (Freedom) party which is now, with Acción Popular and the Partido Popular Cristiano, an element of the Democratic Front.

When he has spoken of the task in hand, he has explicitly accepted the parallels between his old and new functions. "I am trying to create a country in the same way as I create a book. Except I am using real characters." At the same time, he suggests that the resemblances should stop there.

"I think everything that is permissible in literature should be eradicated from politics... in politics you



Señor Mario Vargas Llosa, the author turned presidential candidate, enjoying the applause of a Peruvian election youth rally with his wife and children

must try and control everything that is purely instinctive because otherwise you have violence, you have destruction, you have dead people."

The present campaign is not the first time in the author's life that reality and the stuff of fiction have trodden on each other's toes.

As a young man who had been drawn both to the ideologies of Marxism and the glamorous notion of becoming a man of action — a matador or pilot perhaps — he wrote his first novel, *The Time of the Hero*, which concerned a scandal at the Lima military academy where his father had sent him to be educated. The school responded to his attack by having dozens of copies ceremonially burnt on the parade ground.

As the central character of the greater story, which is now approaching a climax but not a conclusion, he has shifted dramatically, as central characters should.

Far from being a Marxist, he is characterized as a friend of the *pitufos*, the demeaning term denoting a creature somewhere between the preppie and the Sloane. He himself is said to have become something of a *caudillo*, full of old-style Spanish *hauteur* in the manner of Señor García and Señor Belaúnde before him.

He receives advice from US campaign consultants and expresses admiration for Mrs Thatcher's programme of privatization in Britain. He wants to see a reduction of the public sector in Peru, the addition of millions of new shareholders, and the creation of wealth through an expansion of the market economy.

His supporters fear the prospect of an internationally known writer with a strong humanist streak becoming associated with the suppression of trade unions.

The latest twist in the plot is the rumour that the Shining Path has brought 500 men to Lima and is planning an all-out military assault on the would-be President. Whether this is fact, fiction or fantasy, Señor Vargas Llosa's physical isolation no longer derives from the seclusion of an artist but from the protection of a target, throughout the campaign he is travelling with an armed guard of 100 men.

Uneasy calm in Maoist heartland amid a sea of anti-poll violence

The greatest problem facing Peru's next President is the terrorist threat posed by the Shining Path Maoist guerrilla organization. Corrine Schmidt reports from Ayacucho, in the heartland of the guerrilla movement.

A WAVE of violence has swept Peru as guerrillas of the Maoist Shining Path, opposed to the forthcoming elections, have killed congressional candidates, political leaders and business executives, burnt buses, and blown up a car bomb outside the Finance Ministry in Lima.

Members of the far-left group briefly took over three radio stations in the capital yesterday to call for a general strike against the polls.

The Lima car bombing killed two people and badly wounded 12. On Tuesday, at least four people were injured in a car bomb attack at the site of a planned campaign rally in the Andean city of Huancayo, police said.

Yet here in the provincial city of Ayacucho, the birthplace and stronghold of the Shining Path, a strange calm reigns.

Local residents, the Ayacucho, sit on park benches in the city's graceful central square on sunny afternoons, or stand gossiping in the porticoed passageways of the buildings around the plaza.

Indian women sell vegetables in the street markets. The hostile stares which foreigners receive in the towns to the north, where the drug gangs hold sway, are largely absent.

Two weeks ago the Shining Path called a general strike in Ayacucho. The action, which more or less shut down the city, was remarkably peaceful.

"People were out playing football in the streets," one woman said. There were none of the blackouts or bombings Ayacuchoans have learnt to associate with the Shining Path's "armed strikes".

The tranquillity disconcerts more and more Ayacuchoans as the general election on April 8 nears. It was on an election day 10 years ago that the Shining Path launched its "people's war" by burning ballot boxes in a small town near Ayacucho.

Since then, increasing violence has been the trademark of the guerrillas' efforts to

enforce election boycotts. Colonel Carlos Orbegoso, head of the technical police in Ayacucho, admits: "The quiet worries me. The Shining Path wants to frustrate the elections, especially here in Ayacucho because they were born here. This is where (in Maoist terms) the people's war moves from the countryside to the city."

Señor Carlos Eván Degregori, an anthropologist who has studied the Shining Path extensively, says that in their search to establish a new order, elections "represent something almost painful" for the group's Maoist militants.

Ayacucho is one of the nation's poorest departments, "a forgotten corner of Peru" in the words of Father Carl Schmidt, a Jesuit priest who has lived in Peru more than 20 years. The region has been the focus of Shining Path activities since the group began organizing in the late 1960s.

The movement was founded by Señor Abimael Guzmán, a philosophy professor, who recruited his first revolutionary cadres among the sons and daughters of peasants and provincial merchants studying at San Cristóbal University in Ayacucho.

They took his plans to destroy the old order, with a Maoist rural-based insurgency, into the countryside. The peasants they found were tough, even ruthless.

Dr Germán Medina, an Ayacucho physician and now a congressman running for re-election with the moderate Socialist Left Party, says: "When I began to practise

medicine here, I was surprised by the cruelties with which the peasants treated captured cattle rustlers." He recalled counting 200 knife wounds on one executed rustler. Every adult member of the peasant community had participated in the killing.

Señor Carlos Loayza, of the Arguedas Institute in the city, says this practice of "exemplary punishment" is common in Andean communities, and Shining Path terrorism is a marriage between such practices and a fanatical Maoist ideology. "Instead of shooting a government informant, Shining Path guerrillas will cut out his tongue." They slit victims' throats or stone or axe them to death.

Ayacuchoans thus face a difficult choice on April 8. Not only must they decide for whom to vote, but whether to vote at all. If they do, they run the risk of "exemplary punishment" as collaborators in the old order which the Shining Path has sworn to abolish.

No one in Ayacucho seems sure what, if anything, the Shining Path will do to keep them from voting.

Señor Alberto Valencia, a congressman and candidate for re-election for the left-of-centre government party, the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance, said: "Some people say that the Shining Path is preparing violent actions; that this is just the tense calm before the storm. But I think this is the beginning of the end of the Shining Path."

He attributes inaction by the Shining Path to recent suc-

cesses by the armed forces in Ayacucho and the spread of civilian defence squads among peasant villagers.

Nevertheless, Señor Valencia is taking no chances. He lives in the Tourist Hotel in Ayacucho, where police and bodyguards patrol the lobby with automatic weapons.

When his young supporters go out at night to paint the city's walls with electoral slogans, they are accompanied by armed guards.

The military will guard all 1,200 voting tables in the Ayacucho department on April 8, but in fact fear of the Army may be what finally convinces Ayacuchoans to vote. Fears of detention and torture are well founded.

As Señor Hugo Huamán, a peasant leader, says, not having a voter identification card stamped is synonymous with being a subversive for the military.

Compared with fear, democracy seems to have little meaning for the people of Ayacucho. Señor Medina asks: "Why should they vote? What have we done for them? In Ayacucho they do not believe in this democracy because it has not done anything for them. It is not just fear that keeps people from voting, it is rejection."

And so Ayacucho waits as the lorryloads of soldiers rumble down the streets and the troops nervously guard the electoral headquarters. The people go about their daily lives, wondering what bloodshed will accompany these elections, and whether it is all really worth the effort.

Señor Hernán Huamán, a refugee from the violence in the countryside, said, as he sat under the plastic roof of his shanty in Ayacucho: "We do not want promises. They get elected and forget us."

87 die in insurgency

Manila — At least 87 people were killed this week in clashes between Philippine troops and the New People's Army as the rebels' 21st anniversary approaches, military and police said. The rebels are waging one of Asia's longest communist insurgencies. In another development, General Renato de Villa, Chief of Staff, ordered two generals and 19 other officers to stand trial over December's failed coup against President Aquino. The charges against them include mutiny and murder. (Reuters, AP)

Marcos jury

New York — A retired secretary and a teacher's aide are among the 12 jurors chosen to consider charges here that Mrs Imelda Marcos, the Philippine former First Lady, helped to plunder her country's treasury. (AP)

Reports denied

Peking — China has denied reports that it is selling surface-to-surface missiles to Middle East countries. "Do not believe rumours," Mr Li Zhaoxing, assistant to the Foreign Minister, said.

Wake-up call

Madison, Wisconsin — A man in a vegetative state for eight years "woke up and started talking" after being given a tranquilizer for dental work, a neurologist said. (AP)

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Envoy expelled

Stockholm — Sweden's Foreign Ministry has accused a Soviet trade representative of industrial espionage and has ordered him to leave the country. (Reuters)

Export ban

Bangkok — Vietnam has banned the export of rare forest products to try to stop serious deforestation caused by war and a rapidly growing population. (AP)

Two executed

Nicosia — Tehran has executed two men accused of spying for Iraq, the official Iran news agency said, naming them as Abbas Raisi and Ahmad Jangi Razhi. (Reuters)

Cabinet sacked

Colombo — President Premadasa of Sri Lanka has dissolved the Cabinet as a prelude to appointing a new council of ministers. (AP)

Shock therapy

Rome — Pigeons trying to land on Rome's Trevi fountain will get a shock from September — the 18th-century structure is to be wired to deliver a low-voltage charge to keep them away. (Reuters)

Cabinet post for Thai army chief

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

THAILAND'S military leader, General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, who resigned from the Army on Tuesday, announced yesterday that he was joining the Government as a Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister, a move which makes him the most powerful member of the Cabinet after the Prime Minister and his most likely successor.

General Chavalit said he would be an independent minister and would not join any of the six coalition parties in the Government. He will have control of the defence forces and of all security matters and will also exert a big influence on foreign policy and national development.

Recently he has been virtually in charge of Thailand's policies towards its neighbours, Malaysia, Burma and the three Indo-Chinese countries.

He restored normal relations with Laos and the military regime in Burma and had a key role in establishing the anti-Vietnamese coalition in Cambodia.

General Chavalit could not join the Government while serving as an army officer, but his appointment has been condemned as "undemocratic" by academics and students, who say he should first have been elected to Parliament.

He is the only member of the Government who is not an MP. General Chatichai Choonhavan, the Prime Minister,

evidently expects General Chavalit's presence will improve the Government's reputation and authority which have been badly damaged by accusations of corruption in Government political and military circles.

However, General Chavalit himself has been the subject of rumours concerning his connections with Thai logging companies which obtained contracts to extract timber from Burma after the general established cordial relations with Rangoon.

By retiring two years before the mandatory retirement age, General Chavalit, who is almost 58, kept a promise to make way for younger officers and by joining the Government he guarantees that the military will continue to have a powerful voice in national affairs.

As Defence Minister, he is expected to select his own men for top commands. His chosen successor, General Suchinda Kraprayoon, is now certain to become the new army commander-in-chief.

General Chavalit had almost no experience as a combat officer, but he has streamlined and modernized the Army and changed its thinking. He has succeeded in convincing the top men that they can no longer seize power by overthrowing an elected government. There was no sign of an attempted coup while he commanded the Army.

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TIMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's Genschman, Bonn's non-stop foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genschman, who has been given superhero status, complete with cape, soaraway ears and external Y-fronts, by the West German satirical magazine, *Titanic*. Since publishing the exploits of "the man who can solve all the problems of the universe", *Titanic* sales of Genschman T-shirts, badges and lighters have become obligatory cult gear for politically aware German youth. Genschman is in Britain for tomorrow's Anglo-German summit at the end of a 15,000-mile "peace odyssey" in the past week from Namibia (where he celebrated his 63rd birthday) to Luxembourg, Lisbon, Budapest and back to Lisbon. His breathless aides



Genschman: always on call

claim he visits at least one country a week, although they deny the persistent rumour that when two Luftwaffe transports collided head-on over the Atlantic, Genschman was listed as a passenger on both.

Tomomi Sawabe, the tiny six-year old violinist picked by the PR people promoting next year's Japan Festival for their photo-opportunity this week, was actually their second choice. I am told. They originally wanted a Sumo wrestler, and were prepared to fly one from Tokyo until they found that your average Sumo requires three seats — and first-class at that — plus three more for his minders. Tomomi needed only a half bus fare, plus a full one for her minder, her mum; they live in Highgate.

● A brief, unexplained delay before meetings of Commons select committees yesterday. Then the reassuring announcement: "Due to unforeseen circumstances, there will not now be a power failure."

In this 20th anniversary year of the Princess Royal's presidency of the Save the Children Fund, I hear a sad story concerning Eglantine Jebb, its founder. Jebb, an Englishwoman moved by the plight of Austrian refugee children after the First World War, died in Geneva in 1928 and is buried there. Her grave was tended by the locally-based International Union of Child Welfare until it was wound up three years ago. What nobody told SCF headquarters in London was that the abominably efficient Swiss require a payment of 2,000 francs every 20 years, otherwise the plot is deemed to have been given up. A loyal Spaniard who makes regular pilgrimages discovered recently that the 1988 payment had not been made, the ornate and beautiful headstone had been removed and broken up, and the



Jebb: mother to millions

plot was on the verge of being re-sect. SCF moved swiftly to pay, just in time to save the grave. Nicholas Hinton, the director-general, tells me that a new headstone will be ordered in honour of the woman whose baby now bestows some £40 million a year on the world's deprived youth.

Sir John Egan's career at Jaguar, I notice, ended almost as it started. His first day — by chance April 1, 1980 — was spent trying to end a strike which had shut the business down. As he announced on Tuesday that he was leaving after 10 successful years as chairman, 40 workers were on their way out of the Browns Lane plant in Coventry, threatening lay-off for the remaining 5,000. Still, Sir John did get a fair few cars out in between. And the first thing he did, I hear, when he finally dragged the company into profit, was to equip himself with a new office car — made from Jaguar floor mats, naturally.

Stephen Klein, executive director of the National Symphony Orchestra of Washington, writes to tell me of the true situation concerning the water at their memorable recent Leningrad concert under the baton of Rostropovich. You will recall my front-line report that the musicians were refusing to play until last-minute supplies of Evian were rushed in. Klein assures me that large quantities of bottled water were in place nine days before the concert, and that there was no question of the performance being threatened. Never in a thousand years would I drink Russian tap water; nor, clearly, would hygiene-conscious Americans.

Does the road to low inflation and stable exchange rates run through Ashford Castle, County Mayo? EC finance ministers must be asking themselves this question as they prepare to meet there this weekend to discuss the next steps towards economic and monetary union. And none more so than John Major.

In his Budget speech, Mr Major made it clear that the Government's commitment to take sterling into the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System remains firm. The question is not if, but when.

The Government has implicitly recognized that of the conditions laid down in Madrid last year for sterling's full membership of the EMS, all but one have been met — although worryingly different interpretations of what those conditions are now seem to be creeping in. Three months before the July 1 deadline, there is already almost complete liberalization of capital in the European Community. The French have removed all their controls, and the Italians are close behind them.

The measures needed to realize the single market in banking, which is at the heart of the financial services sector, have all been adopted.

The importance of an active

competition policy in the single market was confirmed by the unanimous agreement of member states at the end of last year on a merger regulation to set up a "one-stop shop" for large takeovers in Europe. And the Commission's approach to state aid — existing as well as new — is becoming more rigorous throughout the Community.

But the last condition is the most important: a narrowing of inflation rates between Britain and the EMS members, especially Germany. We can all share the Chancellor's frustration at the slow progress here. British inflation remains stubbornly above that of our partners.

It may be imprudent to join before core inflation is clearly falling, but it would be masochistic in the extreme to insist that British business must wait until our inflation is at the average of that of other countries before our firms are allowed to enjoy the advantages of exchange rate stability and more stable prices.

Leon Brittan urges full EMS membership this year

The key to inflation's cure

After this, this is a moving target: the Germans consider 3 per cent inflation too high. Low inflation should be the result of membership of the EMS rather than its precondition. Countries such as France have successfully used the EMS to reduce inflation to German levels, without suffering prohibitively high interest rates.

So it is right to use full EMS membership as the tool to help us break the vicious cycle of inflationary expectations leading to higher wages, a depreciating exchange rate and yet more inflation. We can do this by joining the EMS later this year, perhaps beginning in the wide 6 per cent band. This would be more than a statement of intent, but it would not force sterling prematurely into an unsustainably rigid structure. Then, early in 1991 with luck, the Government could move into the narrow 2.25 per cent band, confirming its commitment to exchange rate stability.

The rapid move to a single currency in both parts of Ger-

many — with July 1 as the target date — is a sign of the fast-changing times. But it will in no way affect the structure or stability of the EMS: the Bundesbank is quite determined on this point. German monetary union may at most lead to some increase in Deutschmark interest rates to contain any short-term inflationary pressures. If that happens, then as we saw last autumn, the Government would have no option but to increase sterling interest rates, whether or not we are full EMS members.

Britain can no longer afford the luxury of a wait-and-see policy. EMS membership offers the best and perhaps the only way to master an inflationary cycle that has led to mortgage rates of more than 15 per cent and a big fall in the value of sterling over the past year.

The EMS is not an end in itself. The Government's commitment to join forms part of the agreement on stage one of economic and monetary union, which also begins on July 1.

Discussions are well under way for the inter-governmental conference to consider treaty arrangements for a new Community central bank structure.

The prospect of monetary union raises issues on which Britain's voice must be heard loud and clear. Should Community monetary institutions be independent? Should price stability be the overriding objective? How do we ensure that budgetary policy remains, as it should be, a matter primarily for the member states?

These and many other questions are being discussed now. We in the Commission have put forward a proposal for informal discussion between finance ministers which, in my view, gives broadly the right answers. Our goal must be price stability. EC central banks, working in a federated structure, must have the independence to achieve that goal without undue political interference. And member states must take their own decisions on what is a prudent budget deficit

within the framework of a single currency.

It is the member states, not Brussels, which will have the ultimate say on a new treaty to establish monetary union. So it is all the more important that Britain's voice be heard on how to achieve a monetary union that is genuinely market-based, that builds on existing national central banks, and delivers stable prices and correspondingly low interest rates.

A single European currency will dominate Britain's monetary and exchange rate policies, whether or not we join. It is in our own interest to ensure that the new institutions reflect clearly Britain's anti-inflationary priorities and free-market systems. We cannot ensure that while sitting on the fence, and we cannot expect the City of London's obvious claims to be the home of a new European central bank to receive much support until we show greater commitment.

If John Major does jump in favour of the EMS and moving towards a common currency this weekend, Ashford Castle may prove to be a landmark not just in the Irish countryside but in the move towards an inflation-free Europe.

Sir Leon Brittan is vice-president of the European Commission.

Conor Cruise O'Brien sees war clouds over Transylvania

New order, old hatred

Vienna

The Romanian poet Mircea Dinescu, who took part in the overthrow of the tyrant Ceausescu, said in Budapest last weekend, "Freedom can also set evil free." He was addressing a conference of Romanian and Hungarian intellectuals about "nationalism, an old disease which isn't going to be cured overnight", and was referring specifically to last week's violent assaults, organized by the Romanian neo-fascist movement Vatra Romanesca, against members of Romania's large Hungarian minority.

During the same weekend, Hungarians resident in Vienna demonstrated in favour of "self-determination" for Transylvania, the province where most of Romania's ethnic Hungarians live, which has been part of Romania since the treaty of St Germain in 1920.

Nationalism was not an issue in this week's Hungarian elections, the first since 1947. No party explicitly called for frontier revision. Yet the government which is about to emerge is sure to be more nationalistic than the "reformed communist" government now rejected by the electorate. It will be less restrained in responding to attacks on the Hungarians in Romania.

The attacks last week were well organized, with considerable collusion from lower and middle levels of the Romanian state system. The present Romanian government — which is revolutionary, but not yet democratic — intervened, albeit tardily. But how will it be when Romania has a freely elected government?

Last week, the police in Transylvania were putting all the blame for the troubles on the "provocations" of ethnic Hungarians trying to "break up" Romania. A democratically elected Romanian government would probably see matters in the same light, but Hungary's democratic government could not accept that. It is hard to resist the inference that democracy and nationalism are setting Hungary and Romania on a course towards war.

Conditions in Central and Eastern Europe in the spring of 1990 resemble those of 80 years ago more than those of 40 years ago. In 1990, as in 1910, a mighty, confident Germany looks eastward into a zone of instability and ethnic conflict. The major difference is that the zone of instability is now far more extensive. Then it was confined — or perceived as being confined — to the Balkans; today it stretches south from the Baltic republics to Bosnia, and east from the Oder to Kharkov. There are still further zones of instability, in Georgia and Transcaucasia, and in the Muslim republics of Central Asia.

The main factors that precipitated the First World War were the ethnic conflicts that threatened to disintegrate the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the

perceived need to arrest that process of disintegration. Today the process of disintegration in the Soviet empire is far more advanced, but the will to check that process has been made clear by the employment of Soviet tanks in Lithuania.

Fortunately, there are limits to that ominous analogy. There is no contemporary equivalent to the fatal *engrenage* of international alliances and counter-alliances which were set in motion by Serbia's rejection of the Austro-Hungarian ultimatum after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand at Sarajevo in June 1914. The Warsaw Pact and Nato, in contrast, are ludicrously irrelevant to what is happening in Europe today, and we should be thankful for that. For a general European war is unlikely.

Yet great troubles can reasonably be foreseen, and should be taken into account in the calculations of every country in Western Europe. The crisis in the Soviet Union shows every sign of getting worse. Of the 15 member republics, 14 clearly want to secede, and Moscow, equally clearly, doesn't know what to do. Mr Gorbachev seemed disposed to let them go in peace — until last week, when the show of strength in Lithuania suggested he was saying something very different.

From today's perspective it seems likely that repression will be attempted, and will fail. It could well be precipitated by the large Russian minorities in areas where the ethnic majority wants to secede. It seems inevitable that some of those Russians, alarmed at the prospect of being swamped, will deliberately set out to provoke their local ethnic opponents, in the probably well-founded hope that Moscow's forces — initially at least — will back them.

Repression is likely to be attempted mainly in the guise of protecting Russian and other minorities. But it will fail: partly because of the adverse economic consequences of antagonizing Western opinion, but mainly because of the divisive effects on the Soviet Union's multi-ethnic military forces.

The results of the attempts to hold the Soviet Union together, and of the failure of those attempts, are likely to be exceedingly grim. Already, some areas — notably Transcaucasia — are close to civil war. Such conditions are likely to spread, and epidemic disease and famine are probable. There may be nothing much that the West can do except supply relief and medical aid, where possible. It may be, however, that a united Germany will adopt a more international posture, especially if its own ethnic minorities appear to be under threat.

Communism has gone forever, but some of the forces that are filling the vacuum are hardly less ugly. Mircea Dinescu knows what he is talking about.

Marching bands of lawlessness



The game's up, Thatcher. You may not have been blenched when four-fifths of your backbenchers and your entire Cabinet announced that in a leadership contest they would prefer Mr Brian Sedgemore; you no doubt shrugged off the 277,146 Labour majority in the mid-Staffs by-election and the nationwide opinion poll which put the Tories 117 points behind Labour and 38 behind Ashdown's lot; you presumably greeted with nothing but a toss of the head the news that Heseltine is marching on London with a vast throng of peasants armed with pitchforks; but I now bring you tidings that will harrow up thy soul, freeze thy young blood, make thy two eyes, like stars, start from their spheres. Thy knotted and combined locks to part, and each particular hair to stand on end, like quills upon the fretful porpoise.

Tremble, hated tyrant, Mike West — Mike West, no less (who, I will have you know, is currently in the Top Ten) — has launched a body called Artists Against the Poll Tax, and they plan to stage a march through the streets of London the day before the dreaded impost comes officially into force in England.

I wouldn't put it past that woman to pretend she has never heard of Mike West, but I shall not let her get away with that. For although it will naturally be Mike who leads the mighty throng on the day, the galaxy of stars marching behind his banners will eclipse the sun as they shine upon the millions who will line the streets.

You think I exaggerate? You think Henry the Fifth at Agincourt ("Then shall our names, Familiar in his mouth as household words, Bedford and Exeter, Warwick and Talbot, Salisbury and Gloucester, Be in their flowing cups freshly remembered...") was pretty good at rallying the troops by listing his lead singers? A dummy! A no-hoper! His lot couldn't get a single into the Top

Bernard Levin finds more in the anti-poll tax hit parade than youth having an innocent fling

Ten even if they bribed every disco-jockey in the country. Names? You want names? Look at Mike's cohorts as they pass the saluting base, (there goes one whose knuckles burst the ground), bursting with pride as they make the welkin ring with their marching songs: "Abide with Me", "Rock Around the Clock", "Tipperary", "Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kitbag", "Wrap Yourself in Cotton Wool and Save Yourself For Me". There they go, contingents from every group — Rebel, Double Trouble, The Wee Papa Girl Rappers, Jimmy Somerville, The Proclaimers, Lisa Stansfield, Cookie Crew (Cookie Crew, I tell you — great God, is Thatcher to be spared nothing?), Simple Minds, Eurythmics, Wet Wet Wet, Deacon Blue and Hue and Cry. (It is possible that The Wee Papa Girl Rappers are two groups, not one, viz., The Wee Papa and Girl Rappers; if so, blame the *Daily Mirror* proof-readers, not me.)

But it is not just the marching that she has to fear. There is also the eloquence. Hear Mike: "I haven't filled out my poll tax form and I am en-cour-aging other peop-le not to ei-ther. This is some-thing I am be-ing a real rebel ab-out. It is an ap-palling thing to hap-pen to the wor-king class-es." Now hear Phil Green, the rally organizer. "We are," he says, "ur-ging mass non-pay-ment of the Po-li-Tax in the big-gest show of ci-vil dis-ob-e-dience."

Now, now; you do not have to tell me that these people have as much right as any of us to denounce the Com-mun-i-ty Charge. They have votes, at least the ones who are over 18, and for all I know they may have opinions as well. And a day out

in the spring sunshine will cheer up any but the most determined of curmudgeons. And there is no need for us to pursue our lips at the title of the organization which is to put on the show, Artists Against the Poll Tax; we can safely leave posterity to be the final judge of their claim to art. What, then, am I complaining about?

Only this. There are fashions in everything in this jaded time of ours, which demands new sensations weekly (the demand itself demonstrating more clearly than any words of mine the shallowness of the fashions), the tastes, however odd, are almost invariably set by the young, and in particular the young of the kind who follow Simple Minds, the Eurythmics, The Wee Papa Girl Rappers, Wet Wet Wet, Deacon Blue, Hue and Cry, Cookie Crew and Artists Against the Poll Tax. And I do not think that breaking the law should ever become fashionable.

Should the parade of Artists Against the Poll Tax trouble us? I think it should, though it would obviously be a mistake to take them as seriously as they take themselves. They will flourish for their allotted span — a few months, a year — and then be heard no more, as their replacements take the stage, to vanish as abruptly and completely in their turn. But until they disappear into the void, they will have an audience and a following, and will be aped by those even more insubstantial than themselves. Nor does it matter that a good few are hard put to it to spell Poll, and more than a handful must wrinkle their brows to write Tax, and among them there are those who have not the slightest idea of what they are marching for.

But I know what they are marching for. They are marching to persuade people even sillier and more immature than they are that breaking the law is a great wheeze and it isn't. They would claim that they are inching to crime in a spirit of passionate indignation at unjust legislation, and would be even more indignant if I were to say they are only having a lark. But either way, they are inciting to crime. They include those who have barely heard of something called Pole Tacks, and have understood, even more dimly, that it will oblige people to pay money to the Government, which will steal it all, so the rubbish will never be collected again, and the sewers will all overflow. That is enough for them: Artists Against the Poll Tax, unite; you have nothing to lose but your drains.

So they will march, and Mike will have his hour, and if the weather stays fine everybody will have a nice day. But the idea that it is all right to break the law will have been a little strengthened, and the belief that it is not all right to break the law will have been a little weakened. Perhaps we are paying too high a price for Wet Wet Wet, The Proclaimers and Cookie Crew.

WOGAN said never do it on a boat — never, that is, unless they give you a cabin and you can lock the door when it is over. We were talking about public appearances. When the deed is done, and the performer has nowhere to go, people feel they must come up and say: "I liked your dyslexic Afrikaner who blew up C&A; have you heard the one about the man who went on holiday to the Channel Islands and asked his best friend to look after the budgerigar?" Well, this man went on holiday to Jersey and he had a friend who was a plumber and played in a heavy metal band... Most people believe that after-dinner speaking is a doddle; that speakers have but a single oration which they tote around the country in search of audiences who have not heard it. This is some way from the truth.

What we have is a format, which we adapt to suit the punters. At a legal dinner, "Why did the solicitor cross the road?" goes down a treat. For local authority functions, "There was an English environmental health officer, a Scottish environmental health officer and an Irish environmental health officer..." makes them feel you have really done your homework. "Who was that travel agent I saw you with last night?" is one to keep in mind when speaking to Thomas Cook's people. Our aim is to have audiences believe that the speech is bespoke, designed for this and no other occasion. Some of us, at the top of the profession, have multi-discipline

anecdotes, like the man in the Gobi Desert who, because of geographical miscalculation, finds himself and his dog without food and water, three days march from the nearest mirage... You can tell that to canine clubs, planners' associations, Weightwatchers and the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. Actually you can tell pretty well anything to the Society of MM&T.

Last week, I was asked to speak at a clients' dinner given by a prestigious firm of glassmakers. There were about 100 guests, most of whom sold the company's produce to licensed victuallers. During the meal, I thought again about Vatel, Louis XIV's

major-domo, who killed himself with a carving knife when His Majesty's fish course was late in arriving from the kitchen. He was 34, about the same age as the waitress who explained that

a half-hour wait after the prawn cocktail was standard. I thought perhaps I should hide my cutlery. My brief stipulated that I should talk about my connection with catering and discuss the merits of fine glassware, stressing the desirability of investment in the company's products between reminiscence and anecdotes. I began with the story of this liquor glass salesman who went to heaven and St Peter asked him what made him think he had come to the right place, and moved smoothly to the half-grapefruit dilemma. Restaurants cannot serve half grapefruits, delicious though they are, because too many people know the price

of a whole grapefruit, are able to divide by two and could then glean how substantial is the profit on which the caterer works. As a consequence, you get grapefruit cocktail, fashioned of nasty tinned segments and two green maraschino cherries, three thin slices of Cape gooseberry in a frosted glass, the rim of which is rubbed with lemon and dunked in castor sugar. No one knows how much that costs so the caterer feels he might as well charge twice as much as he would have done for the half grapefruit. I moved smoothly to the good reasons why restaurants should purchase large glasses: to shame parties of four into buying more

than one bottle; and why they should have a good stock of small ones: so that they can use less wine when selling it by the glass. I ended by telling the assembled company about the glass-blower who went to his doctor for a check-up and learnt that he had only 12 hours to live. The story ends with his wife saying: "It's all right for you, you don't have to be up in the morning." And after I had sat down, a man came by and told me he had heard that self-same story about a racehorse trainer: "There was this racehorse trainer who went to his doctor for a check-up..." I asked him where he had heard it, and he said at the Royal Lancaster Hotel's Derby Night Dinner. "Who told it?" "Come to think of it," said the man, "I believe it was you. But I preferred tonight's version."

My all-conquering chestnuts



CLEMENT FREUD

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cure



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COMMUNITY CHARGING

An iron law of politics states that, in matters of taxation, there is no free lunch. Mrs Thatcher and her Cabinet have spent five years learning this lesson. The decision to abolish property taxes in Britain was crudely popular. But there was bound to be a price. The new tax on all adult occupiers now appears, as many experts predicted, to lack both fiscal coherence and political judgement.

The Government is at present committing itself to a "reappraisal" of the poll tax which gets more emphatic with each backbench rebellion. The form of this reappraisal is now critical to the future of local government in Britain. Scarcely a week passes without a new and unspecific promise of reform from the embattled Environment Secretary, Mr Christopher Patten. Each political milestone this past year — party conference, autumn statement, budget — has been engraved with some costly concession.

A battery of rebates and transitional reliefs has left administrators and householders in confusion. We still do not know which high-spending councils are to be capped — their poll taxes thus short of the much-vaunted "accountability leverage". The next step is to "reassess" standard spending assessments, so as to fiddle downwards poll taxes in marginal constituencies. After that will presumably come a pre-election year of generous central grants. This is not a good way to reform the British tax system.

The community charge may live out this Parliament. But it will be accompanied by a series of bloody parliamentary and public explosions. So long as the tax remains in place, expediency will require the Treasury, and therefore national taxpayers, to bear an ever greater share of local spending, as ministers hurl money at a lengthening line of losers. Since, in the early years of this Government, more local spending was rightly being pushed on to local rates, this reverse move is a real loss to local accountability, and makes a mockery of the prime motive for the charge.

The question here is not whether or not next year may ease the Government's political woes as "more blame for the poll tax" attaches to overspending local councils. The question is whether we have here a sensible and robust new form of raising public revenue. This tax is euphemistically called a "charge". That is wrong when nobody can choose not to pay it, and when payers do not personally receive all the relevant goods or services. Nor can a per capita tax ever be regarded as fair when levied at the same rate on the rich and most of the poor. Progressivity in taxation is so ingrained in democratic politics that it will always have its way.

Those who pay this tax will never hold their local councils properly accountable when it seems yawning in its incidence and when 80 per cent of local spending is governed by the Treasury. Least of all will they do so when the remaining 20 per cent may be capped as well, and when an ever rising proportion of payers can, if they are clever, have their taxes rebated.

A brave, but possibly a wise, Government might now admit that it had made a mistake and reintroduce rates as from 1991. There is no great administrative hurdle to this. The rating lists are still held for the payment of (privatized) water charges. The rates are simple and easy to collect and a rebate structure is in place, as is a mechanism for ensuring that council tenants know the size of their own rates liability.

Nor is the much-proclaimed "need" to revalue properties anything but a political red herring. Regional differences in rateable values can be corrected through the central grant mechanism. Local distortions can be corrected by local adjustments, as happens now. Even the recent Scottish revaluation, drastic because it shifted the balance between homes and businesses, was not strictly essential. The revaluation "scare" must be seen for what it was, a scare to help sell poll tax.

The proclaimed unfairness in the rates reflected the unfairness of any tax on living space. But virtually all countries have such imposts. As with taxes on earning, spending and capital transfers, they are part and parcel of fiscal pluralism. Fiscal pluralism is part and parcel of democratic pluralism. Unfairness in taxation is always a relative concept. The rates

reflected, in a rough and ready way, the wealth invested in property.

Ministers have become fond of saying that, irrespective of hindsight, "there is no going back to the rates". Perhaps, but with each adjustment they seem to be borrowing their way in that direction. In its implementation, the community charge has become primarily a house tax. It is levied per property (as all owners of second homes know) and per household (ask any married couple). Though unlike rates it is in no sense wealth-related, it is certainly becoming more income-related with each rebate concession. Already some Tories are talking of a "banded" poll tax, with richer couples paying more than poorer ones.

The Labour Party has found itself being dragged down almost the same route. Its spokesman, Mr Bryan Gould, has said that he "has yet to decide" whether Labour would replace poll tax with a household-based tax or an income-based one. He said this as if it were a minor afterthought. Yet the question of whether to charge buildings or people is central to all local finance.

Any reappraisal of the community charge must therefore give a clear answer to Mr Gould's dilemma. A tax which attempts to fix on the earnings of individuals within a property — be it local income tax or banded poll tax or crude poll tax — must decide whose earnings are relevant and must, in equity, be progressive. Yet such a tax will be unavoidably hard to collect and will almost certainly suffer steady wastage through evasion over time.

With the exception of the crude poll tax, local income-based taxes require the Inland Revenue as ultimate policeman. No central government would ever permit local councils unfettered power to levy them. Local income-related taxes would thus find themselves capped — Mr Gould, at least, admitted as much this week. Bluntly, the Government might as well shift the whole burden of local spending on to central taxation and have done with it. Where is the local accountability in that?

On the other hand, a tax which fastens on the property itself suffers from no such objection. Call it a roof tax or a household tax or a rate: it falls on bricks and mortar. Variants in use in countries abroad include room-space taxes, land taxes and, most often, taxes based on some assessment of property value (as with Britain's old rates).

Ironically, one such property tax is now coming into being, born of the internal inconsistencies of poll tax. It is called "standard community charge" (levied for instance on second homes) on the assumption that a property is occupiable by two adults, whether this is true or not. It is precisely the roof tax that Tories abuse Labour for wishing to introduce. Given the immense difficulties which are bound to emerge in collecting poll tax from third, fourth or more members of households, the standard community charge is likely to become a developing feature of the local tax scene. In other words, the poll tax may of its very nature evolve into the standard community charge.

Such a flat-rate household levy might just form the starting point for a fundamental reappraisal of the poll tax: a fixed payment per household for the 20-30 per cent of local services not covered by government grant or business rate. It would fall on a domestic house or flat, irrespective of the number of occupants, and would be extremely simple to collect. As a publicly-declared fixed-rate tax, it would enjoy all the "accountability leverage" of the poll tax.

Such a household tax suffers from one obvious disadvantage. Like the poll tax, it is regressive, falling equally on rich and poor households. From this there can be no escape. Taxes related neither to wealth nor income cannot be progressive. We are left with the rebate mechanism for the very poor. All that can be said is that, with central grants rising as fast as now seems inevitable, the charge need not be set unreasonably high.

This should at least stave off the administrative — and possible political — horror of a local income tax. Such a reappraisal would meet the substantive complaints of both Labour and Tory critics of the existing poll tax. It constitutes the only clear way out of this morass.

UNGUIDED MISSILE

The revelation by police of Iraq's attempted purchase of nuclear triggers, coming in the wake of the execution of a journalist working for a British newspaper, should put British relations with President Saddam Hussein's repugnant regime into the deepest of deep freezes. The question of ballistic missile proliferation should also be moved sharply up the major industrialized countries' agenda.

The Middle East is the centre of a Third World ballistic missile arms race in which 24 developing countries are now believed to be involved. The race in the Middle East accelerated during the Gulf War. Even if they only carried conventional warheads, the existence of weapons of mass destruction in the world's most unstable region poses a serious danger. That is no longer the limit of the risk.

Israel is already believed to have nuclear weapons capacity; the acquisition or manufacture of nuclear warheads by Israel's enemies would constitute a serious threat to world peace. Iraq has received ballistic missiles and technical assistance from the Soviet Union, East Germany and Egypt. It is also thought to be investing in Argentina's Condor II, an inaccurate missile for which the most obvious use is to deliver nuclear weapons.

There is no possible trace of ambiguity about Iraq's attempted illegal acquisition of nuclear triggers: their only use is to detonate a nuclear bomb. Iraq, which has used chemical weapons on Iranians and its own citizens, has now given convincing evidence that it holds its obligations under the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as lightly as it does those under the 1925 Geneva convention on chemical warfare. Its efforts to develop a nuclear missile capacity were seriously set back in 1981, when the Israeli Air Force bombed a French-built

reactor outside Baghdad thought to be capable of furnishing the raw material for weapons-grade plutonium. But it is now thought to have actual or potential access to external supplies.

The common factor in all Third World ballistic and nuclear missile programmes is that they rely on key foreign technologies: only six countries are believed to be capable of manufacturing nuclear triggers; the number making guidance systems and nose cones is larger, but still restricted. Without a parallel ban on missile proliferation, the NPT treaty is a wholly inadequate safeguard. The West has been far too half-hearted about interdicting the transfer of the requisite technologies.

The only agreement in place is the Missile Technology Control Regime involving seven Western countries (and, later, Spain), which was implemented in 1985 but not even made public until two years later. It is trebly flawed. Senior ministers have given it too little priority. That in turn has been taken by some West European companies as a green light to exploit the loopholes created by a certain ambiguity as to what equipment is covered. Finally, its membership is too narrow.

The first problem can, and must, be remedied at once, and tighter drafting should be begun now, despite the technical difficulties of defining a ballistic missile. The third task is the most difficult, and the most vital. The Soviet Union and China must be brought into the regime now; other non-member missile suppliers, of which there are around a dozen in the Third World and Eastern Europe, should then be pressed to follow suit. Brilliant detective work stopped Iraq in its tracks yesterday, but the case exposes the imperative need for more systematic pre-emptive action.

Future of history curriculum

From the President of the Royal Historical Society

Sir, It is helpful of you to make us privy to Jonathan Clark's private fears for the future of the history curriculum ("Will history do a bunk?", March 23). Before these personal fears escalate into a public concern, however, it is useful to recall some of the basic principles of the historian's craft, which Jonathan Clark may have forgotten in his zeal for making a pre-emptive strike in favour of traditional, British, political history.

The first is to check one's sources and check one's facts. The second is to be cautious about commenting on a document which one can scarcely have seen — in this case, on a document which has not yet been published.

The National Curriculum History Working Group consulted professional academic historians at several stages in its deliberations, and some 20 university teachers of history commented individually on drafts of particular study schemes.

The interim report of the working group was circulated widely last summer, and full, carefully reasoned, comments were submitted by the Royal Historical Society and by the History in Universities Defence Group, among other bodies. These two associations have large memberships and are generally recognised as representative of the profession. It is thus not true that there has been any takeover by educationists or schoolteacher lobbyists. It is not true that the voices of professional historians have been strikingly absent.

It is also not true that political history has been pushed aside "in favour of themes or topics", although Jonathan Clark's implication that political history does not contain themes and topics seems to offer a very dreary diet for those unfortunate enough to be made to follow his kind of syllabus.

As to what, and how much, political history is contained in the final report on the history curriculum, or how much command of knowledge its recommendations entail, it would be wise for professional historians, above all, to wait and see what the report actually says.

Yours etc,
F. M. L. THOMPSON, President,
Royal Historical Society,
University College London,
Gower Street, W.C1,
March 23.

Saving Berlin Wall

From Professor W. T. Stearn

Sir, One can appreciate the haste of East Germans to tear down the detested Berlin Wall after the many years of repression and restriction associated with it. When in East Germany some years ago I became well aware of the resentment of scientists there at their inability freely to visit institutions and colleagues in the West. That belongs to history. So does the wall.

It symbolizes, however, not only coercion but also heroism and daring ingenuity. Both those who died and those who succeeded in escaping over or under it deserve to be commemorated. In time to come Germans and others will want to know why and how they did this, what kind of obstacle they had to overcome. A stretch of the wall should be preserved, while there is yet opportunity, for historic reasons and as a tourist attraction.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM T. STEARN,
17 High Park Road,
Kew Gardens,
Richmond, Surrey.

First-class post

From Mr Basil S. Pike

Sir, Recent correspondence in your columns (March 22) leads me to think that perhaps I should take advantage of the investigative talents in the postal service and change my address to something more challenging. For instance, "The pensioners in the first semi by the telegraph pole on the right in the highest cul-de-sac, south of the canal, four hundred yards from the police station" will do quite nicely if it produces mail on time.

This morning, a letter correctly addressed and post-coded, complete with first-class stamp, collapsed on to my mat, tired out after a seven-day journey from outer Tonbridge.

Yours faithfully,
BASIL S. PIKE,
Giverny,
54 Northleigh Grove,
Leicestershire,
March 22.

The Bazoff affair

From Mr Peregrine Worsthorne

Sir, I should like your contributor, Charles Wintour (Media and Marketing, March 28), to know that my reason for not apologising to the editor of *The Observer* was neither spite nor shame. It was a reluctance to have to return to the main charge.

Yes, our original piece did misquote Mr Treford. We said he had described Mr Bazoff as an "investigative journalist". In fact, he had described him as "a reporter". If that is a mistake requiring an apology, then I apologise.

We also said that *The Observer* had "sent" Mr Bazoff to Iraq,

Soviet view on crisis in Lithuania

From the Ambassador of the USSR

Sir, I wish to make some comments on your editorials (March 27 and 28) which interpret the situation in Lithuania in a rather specific way.

I want to outline the situation as it really is. The Soviet leadership have repeatedly stressed that they are not going to solve the Lithuanian problem by resorting to the use of force unless nationalist circles in Lithuania create a situation which threatens human lives.

Lithuania is part of the Soviet Union, and the hasty actions by "the president" of Lithuania who declared its independence are in direct contradiction with the Constitution of the USSR and violate law and order.

A secession of Lithuania from the Soviet Union is possible only on the basis of the Constitution. At present the Soviet Parliament is drafting a law which will establish a new form of relations with republics of the Union within the framework of a new union treaty.

We have not yet lived under this law, and the only thing Mr Gorbachev requested was to postpone a decision by each republic on its future until this law is enacted.

Unfortunately, the Lithuanian leadership have acted recklessly and have not demonstrated wisdom and statesmanship, having declared their unilateral decision in violation of all existing constitutional procedures.

The decree of the President of the USSR who possesses supreme power declared this and other similar decisions invalid, and all union laws continue to apply in Lithuania as well as in other Soviet republics. This is the essence of the principle of law and order. Otherwise, there may be chaos, with unpredictable consequences.

Now about concrete questions. For decades military personnel have been stationed in Lithuania,

who have never resorted to force against the population and are not going to. You speak about the "occupation" of the building of the Central Committee and some other premises. I presume that your correspondent could find out that some preventive measures were taken to safeguard enterprises including an atomic-power plant and buildings which belong to the Soviet Union but are located on the territory of Lithuania. There has been no violation of any sovereign rights of Lithuania.

A number of young people who have deserted from the Armed Forces have been returned to their units by the decree of the President. Desertion is punishable by law. Still, in this particular case the soldiers are not going to be prosecuted.

What is obvious is over-dramatization of the situation.

Taking this opportunity I would like to express my opinion on some TV programmes about Lithuania. Sometimes the audience is in a difficulty over what is really happening. Some news programmes and documentaries are accompanied by pictures shot in other parts of the Soviet Union. So, one could only guess whether it is happening in Lithuania, or the military manoeuvres are taking place in any other part of our vast country. From these films some could even get an impression that the Army is shooting at the civilians. All this is puzzling.

In my opinion, what is needed to solve this problem is patience and dialogue which we have been proposing for a long time. This is our position of principle. But first of all the nationalist circles in Lithuania should cool their emotions. Unilateral actions cannot be acceptable, since they contradict the interests of Lithuanians themselves and the whole of the Soviet Union.

Yours faithfully,
L. ZAMYATIN,
Ambassador of the USSR,
13 Kensington Palace Gardens, W8,
March 28.

Canterbury succession

From the Reverend Maurice Kirby

Sir, The line-up of possible front-runners for the Primacy of All England (report, March 26) is impressive. However, as an Anglican priest of 35 years' standing, I am not personally acquainted with any of them except through occasional reporting in the media.

Theoretically, the primacy is open to any ordained priest of the Church of England and not necessarily limited to the present bench of bishops. In practice, however, the field appears to be confined to a few familiar personalities. The net needs to be spread wider — the Holy Spirit, through its human agents, needs greater choice.

The Roman Catholic Church gave a wonderful lead in the selection of a relatively unknown monk, Basil Hume, to be Archbishop of Westminster and, subsequently, a cardinal archbishop. Cannot the Church of England do the same?

Your obedient servant,
MAURICE KIRBY,
Farnham Vicarage,
Farnham, Surrey,
March 27.

From Mr Peter York

Sir, You paid a well deserved tribute to Dr Runcie in stating (leading article, March 26) that he will be remembered as a good archbishop. You withhold the epithet of greatness which time may, nevertheless, well bestow on him. In stating that he did not fully understand a world fast changing about him and calling for tougher-minded leadership, could we recall the perceptive remarks about leadership which Dr Runcie himself offered in his sermon at his enthronement in Canterbury Cathedral on March 25, 1980:

The way of Jesus means reverencing people, whether they belong to our party or not. The strategy of Jesus

means changing lives with love. This is a hard way and people tend to want it only in theory. The cry is, "The Church must give a firm lead". Yes, it must — a firm lead against rigid thinking, a judging temper of mind, the disposition to oversimplify the difficult and complex problems. If the Church gives Jesus Christ's sort of lead, it will not be popular. It may even be despised for failing to grasp the power which is offered to it in the confusions and fears of our contemporaries.

Yours,
PETER YORK,
64 Dry Hill Park Road,
Tonbridge, Kent,
March 27.

From Mr Roger F. Sainsbury and Mr Michael L. Eastmann

Sir, Mark Sonster's article on Dr Runcie's resignation (March 26) was headlined "Traditionists call for successor in touch with man in the pew". Sadly, today "the man in the pew" is often not in touch with "the man in the street".

Yours faithfully,
ROGER F. SAINSBURY
(Chairman),
M. L. EASTMANN
(Secretary),
Evangelical Coalition for Urban Mission,
Scripture Union House,
130 City Road, EC1,
March 27.

From Professor Neil Merritt

Sir, Mr Harry Greenwood, MP, you report today, asserts that the successor to Dr Runcie should eschew politics. If that advice were to be followed it is to be assumed that the Primacy of All England shall remain silent if any Government advocates or implements unchristian policies? Heaven forbid!

Yours faithfully,
NEIL MERRITT (Director),
Ealing College of Higher Education,
Ealing, W5,
March 26.

Charity doubts

From Mrs Sonya Teale

Sir, When confronted by a young woman with a small child begging in the London Underground for "small change", do I give just that and quell the doubt that I have been gulled; do I ask if she has her full uptake of State benefits and suggest a visit to a Citizens' Advice Bureau to check; or do I refuse, and make a donation to an appropriate charity — or do I pursue all three courses?

Yours faithfully,
SONYA TEALE,
Corner Farm House,
St Michael's,
Tenterden, Kent,
March 22.

Telephone manners

From Mr Patrick Vincent

Sir, Perhaps the lack of telephone manners observed by Mr Trevan Hington (March 19) arises from a fear of emulating too closely the increasingly common corporate telephone response typified by: "Good morning, you have reached ABC Double Glazing, my name is Debbie, how may I help you?"

Whilst no doubt intended to sound cheerfully courteous, such a greeting unfortunately engenders irritation.

Yours etc.,
PATRICK VINCENT,
41 Westmoreland Terrace, SW1,
March 19.

manifestly unsuitable in more ways than one and the fact that he had already been to Iraq six times made him more unsuitable, rather than less, since it should have been obvious that his luck must eventually run out.

Would not Mr Wintour have been better employed in drawing attention to the gravity of Mr Treford's editorial misjudgement rather than to my minor inaccuracies?

Yours faithfully,
PEREGRINE WORTHORNE
(Editor, Comment Section),
The Sunday Telegraph,
Pembroke Court at
South Quay,
181 Marsh Wall, E14,
March 28.

Discord over Umberto II

From Lord Colyton

Sir, Your Rome correspondent (report, March 21) gives a rather misleading account of how things were in Italy at the time of the abdication of King Umberto II in June, 1946. I had been Vice-President of the Allied Control Commission (Foreign Affairs) for nearly two years and was in frequent contact with the Luogo Tenente of the Realm, or Regent, as Prince Umberto had become on the retirement from all activities of his father, King Victor Emanuel III, after the fall of Rome in June, 1944.

Umberto had behaved impeccably, working hand-in-hand with the Allied authorities who had nothing but praise for him, and with the left-wing governments of Bonomi and Parri. Publicly he confined himself to visits to the six new mini-divisions of the Italian Army, seen in training and in the front line. He also visited hospitals, conferring decorations and so forth, and also the appallingly war-damaged towns and villages of central Italy.

I was with General Crittenberger, the Commander of the US IV Corps, on the final advance into Milan in April, 1945. Prince Umberto had asked to be allowed to enter the town with us but was dissuaded, as we did not know what conditions we were likely to find.

He came up again a few days later and I helped to arrange his tour of the town. Umberto insisted on going in alone, accompanied by an ADC in an open jeep, where he could have been shot from any direction. A couple of armed Communist partisans with red scarves jumped on the running-boards, each side, at the last minute. He had a quiet but friendly reception throughout.

The real facts on the vote on the future of the monarchy will probably never be known. The result was close and it was widely believed that the vote had been tampered with. However that may be, royalist sentiment was by no means restricted to the aristocracy or world war veterans, as your correspondent implies. Moreover, vast areas in the south of Italy continued to vote for the monarchists years after the war. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
COLYTON,
136 East 64th Street,
New York, NY 10021, USA,
March 23.

Clergy talents

From the Venerable R. A. Lindley

Sir, The Reverend T. H. E. Espin ("On This Day", March 24, describing his many accomplishments in the 1930s) must have left something of a legacy in the minds of surrounding clergy in Durham. In 1951, engaged in a student pastorate at New Brancepeth in County Durham, I met two local clergymen, one of whom grew the biggest leeks in the country. The other was Britain's leading authority on the breeding and training of whippets.

Both clergymen offered the same advice: "Obtain some expertise beyond your theological training which your people will respect. In this way they will trust what you say in the pulpit".

One wonders, apart from the more obvious activities, what the manes and vicarages of Britain are producing today. We already have an archbishop who is expert on pig breeding, a bishop who is a famous knitter and another bishop who played cricket for England. Yours faithfully,
R. A. LINDLEY,
Tafrall, Lower Road,
St Brivels, Gloucestershire,
March 24.

Driving hazards

From Mrs Lynda Farnham

Sir, With reference to your front-page report yesterday (March 26), "Things that go bump in the middle of the road", I would point out that the London Borough of Southwark has effectively restricted the speed of cars through its streets not by the costly laying of speed humps but through the simple measure of not mending the potholes.

This means that any unsuspecting motorist exceeding 20 m.p.h. risks grave damage to suspension, sump and exhaust. The fact that these holes have no warning signs and the streets are inadequately lit is an even greater deterrent and, of course, saves on the council budget.

Yours faithfully,
LYNDA FARNHAM,
90 Bushey Hill Road, SE15,
March 27.

Sleeping easy

From Miss M. H. Franklin

Sir, What I want to say is that I have filled in 17 duvets most of the filling in the duvet down to the bottom, leaving a lighter layer in the main part. This should keep him comfortable on warmer nights.

Alternatively showing one or both legs out from under the duvet for a few minutes will assist rapid cooling.

I regret I do not know if these methods work with duvets containing artificial fillings but they work well with natural ones.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET FRANKLIN,
89 Palatine Road,
Goring-by-Sea,
Worthing, West Sussex.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

THE ARTS

What time does it come down?

Jeremy Kingston, on the road with a mobile theatre, finds the drama behind the scenes more than matches the show on stage

Many theatres tour their plays. The Arts Council likes it, and gives money towards it. But Manchester's Royal Exchange goes one better: it tours the theatre, too.

Not its home theatre, of course, that cat's-cradle of steel and glass cunningly hung within the marble trading hall on St Ann's Square. What it takes on tour is a miniaturized replica, although scaled-down only in height. The seven-sided stage is the same size — and the audience sit, as in Manchester, in seven blocks of seating five rows deep. Only the two upper levels are absent, giving the structure the feel of a circus tent, seating 400, instead of a cockpit seating 750.

Once a year for the past five years, a Royal Exchange production has transferred to its mobile theatre and set off on a tour of the country's sports halls and leisure centres. The current production is Phyllida Lloyd's thrilling and charmingly funny *The Winter's Tale*. I watched the mobile theatre dismantled at Crewe and put up again at Whitehaven.

The Crewe venue is the Shavington Sports Centre, a couple of miles along the road to Nantwich. It is the first time that the mobile theatre has played here, and at the final performance

the resident staff reveal their early misgivings. Cliff Stansfield's responsibilities as manager include organizing the basketball, badminton, volleyball and five-a-side football that normally go on in the hall. "We expected some resistance from people who would not be able to use the facility on their usual nights. But no, I think they expected a stage at one end and rows of seats in front. When they see what it is really like, they are awestruck."

What they see is a red and blue hemisphere that almost touches the roof and fills the space to within a few metres of the walls. For many audiences it has been their first experience of theatre-in-the-round. All Royal Exchange productions are in the round. Some are adapted for tours of proscenium arch theatres, but important production qualities and spaces are thereby sacrificed. The intimacy, for one thing, which some of the cast find actually increases beneath the lower roof of the mobile theatre; and the foyer that surrounds the tent ("Don't call it a tent", mutters the publicist) where audiences can wander about just as in Manchester.

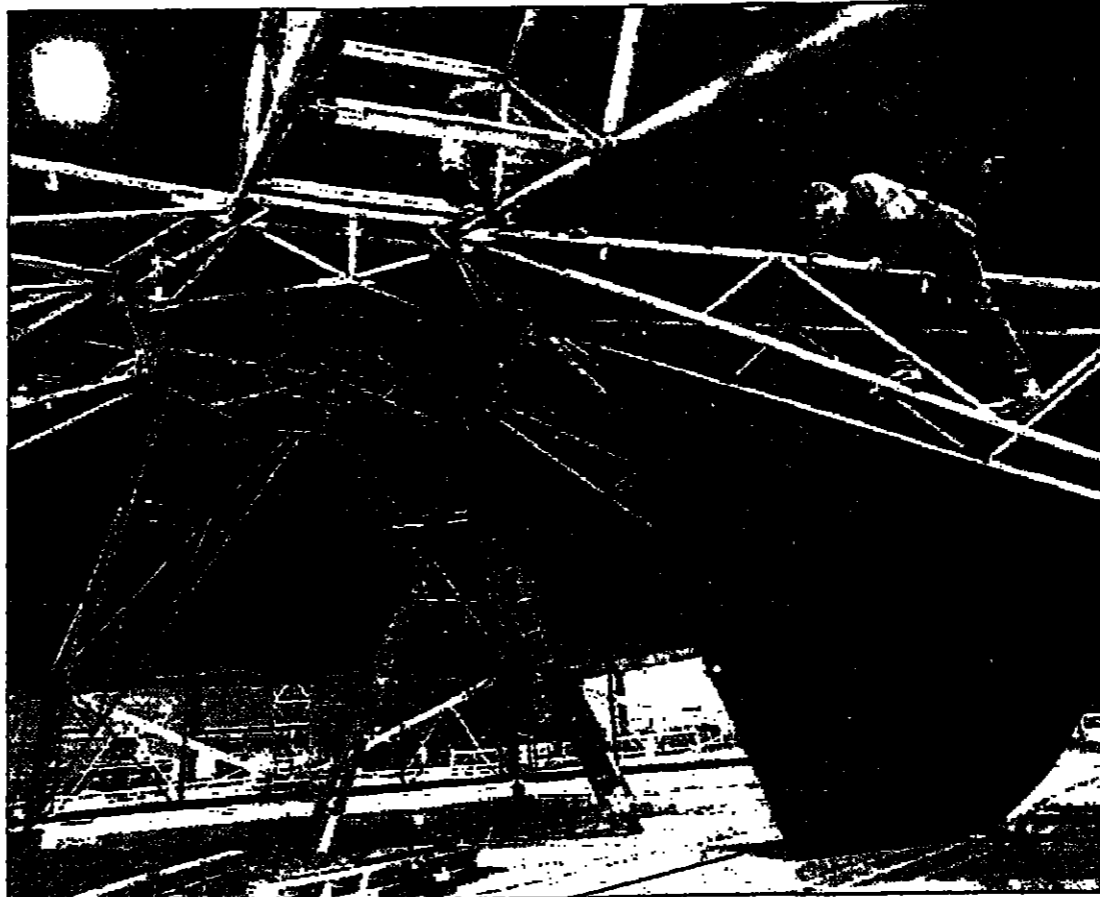
At 10 o'clock the play ends; audience and actors leave; the crew takes over. One of them climbs on to a wheeled chest and is pushed around the perimeter,

peeling off the plastic-sheeting walls. Next the seating goes, identical twins and triplets of red seats pulled off the seating rostra and stacked. The rostra themselves must stay until the wall-strengtheners are unbolted from them — aluminium here, not steel — so the staging is the next to go, and it comes apart like a frenzied tangle of oblongs and long, acute triangles.

Meanwhile the stage management are packing the 58 sound tapes into padded boxes, costumes and props go into baskets and the sheep are pushed into their plastic bags. Sheep? Well, in this production, Antigonus's bear (as in "Exit, pursued by...") is left to the imagination and, perhaps to make up for its absence, the sheep-shearing scene is set with six thickly-fleeced ewes whose hard heads have been known to inconvenience the sheep-leaping revellers.

Twelve of the crew are Royal Exchange staff, the other 10 are local and include at least one squash player who offered to lend his muscle. The work goes on until early next morning: the sky is light (and I long a-bed) before all is stacked in the three 40-foot trailers and the three-ton truck.

Twenty-four hours later, and 150 miles further north, at the Sports Centre in Whitehaven, the



Behind the scenes: Crew members erect the "tent" for the evening performance of *The Winter's Tale*

build begins at 7am. Whitehaven has seen it all before. Floyd Martin, company manager for the tour, and remarkably calm, considering, says: "Some people here have built it up more often than any from the Royal Exchange. As we unload, some of them say, 'Oh, I remember that,' and edge to the rear."

The seven great rectangles along the sides and the beams cantilevering to the centre are heavy enough to make anyone offer the honour to someone else, but by late morning the walls are up. The roof, though assembled, is still only a metre off the ground, so as

to permit an ingenious piece of time-saving. When the 150 lanterns of the lighting rig were first fixed to the raised roof at Crewe, the roof was then lowered and the points on the stage below each lantern were marked on a cloth. At subsequent venues, the lanterns can then be fixed in position with the help of the cloth, thus doing away with the awkward business of fixing and checking them when aloft.

After this, the roof is winched up or lowered — an unfamiliar word which I hope to be the first to use in print. With the technical manager calling out from the

centre, "And one! And two!" crewmen at the seven points of the heptagon heave down (or was it up?) on the seven tirsors and the roof rises above our heads.

All that now remains to be done is to position the stage rostra, lay the lighting cables and the smoke pipes, bring in the seating, hang the sheeting, train the local ushers and debug the sheep. And quite a lot else. Nada Zakula, the tour publicist, looks around at the stacked seats, unopened baskets and a snakepit of cables. "They should do it in time," she murmurs. "I have every confidence." She was right.

Uncertain questions

CONCERT

Paul Griffiths

RPO/Daniel
Festival Hall

SIR Peter Maxwell Davies has said that his First Symphony only grew into a symphony as it went along; the second movement, written as an independent piece, sprouted a giant preparation, after which a third and a fourth movement became inevitable.

On Tuesday night, though we were hearing the movements in the "right" order, there certainly was this impression of a fundamentally non-symphonic, even anti-symphonic, musical style learning to behave itself in symphonic fashion. One looks forward to hearing the next chapters in this unlikely symphonist's autobiography when the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra moves on to the second and third symphonies in the South Bank's Davies fortnight.

It will surely be a learning experience for the orchestra as well as for the audience, since part of the increasing conviction of this performance came from the players' growing acquaintance with what they were involved in. Many of the exposed solos in the first movement, for instance, were weakly engaged, which cannot have helped the sense of urgency in the flow. I suspect, though, that there are deeper problems. Paul Daniel, conducting, chose to bring out the many changes of scoring — or rather, to let them happen — with an icy clarity, which had paid off in *Tapia*, but here suggested a spring being pulled tight and then suddenly left to relax.

The performance also made one wonder just how much the tension in this movement depends simply on gradual increases in speed, loudness and tessitura rather than on harmonic motivation.

In that respect, the finale is perhaps, as here it seemed, an exultant answer to the first movement's difficulties: a movement of rampant energy, pressing towards a grand affirmation in the strings crowned by a carillon of tuned percussion, but a grand affirmation of disturbing uncertainty. Is this the goal we have spent the last hour looking for? Or is it a pretence? Are we expected to know whether it is, in this sense, true or false? These are the questions that the pin-prick ending, here so baldly deflating, leaves.

Thank you and good night to the Schaufuss era — now for Nagy

DANCE

John Percival

ENB Gala
Albert Hall

ENGLISH National Ballet's fortieth birthday party was celebrated on Tuesday night, early by almost six months. The Albert Hall was turned, for the occasion, into a bizarre *café-dansant*, with alternate rows of seats hidden under tables for meals during the interval and after the show.

Luckily, what happened on the stage was much more the proper thing. Inevitably, the programme, arranged before the company mislaid its artistic director (who has now signed for the Deutsche Oper Berlin), was largely a retrospective of what Peter Schaufuss achieved with the company. It will be a hard act to follow for the Hungarian former dancer Ivan Nagy, whose succession was announced last night.

Happily, there were some reminders of earlier days too: Dame Alicia Markova was in the royal box with the company's new

patron, the Princess of Wales; Carla Fracci danced an extract from the Juliet which John Cranko created for her; and Karen Kain appeared in the Rose Adagio from *The Sleeping Beauty*, partnered by four extremely distinguished, although no longer young, gentlemen — Reid Anderson, Patrice Bart, Flemming Flindt, and André Prokovsky — all, amazingly, making their debuts in these roles.

From more recent productions, it was a special pleasure to see the end of Christopher Bruce's *Swansong*, the Shades' entrance

from *La Bayadère*, Dominique Khalifouni and Denys Gano scorched up the stage in a duet from *Carmen*, and (though it was danced with more enthusiasm than correctness) the finale from *Symphony in C*.

There were also some more unfamiliar items: Sylvie Guillem undulating marvellously on the table in Bejart's *Bohème*, Maximiliano Guerra doing some startlingly original steps in the *Diana and Acteon* duet with Christine Camillo; and Iulia Makhalina, one of the Kirov's young stars, dancing *Black Swan* with Andris Liepa, as

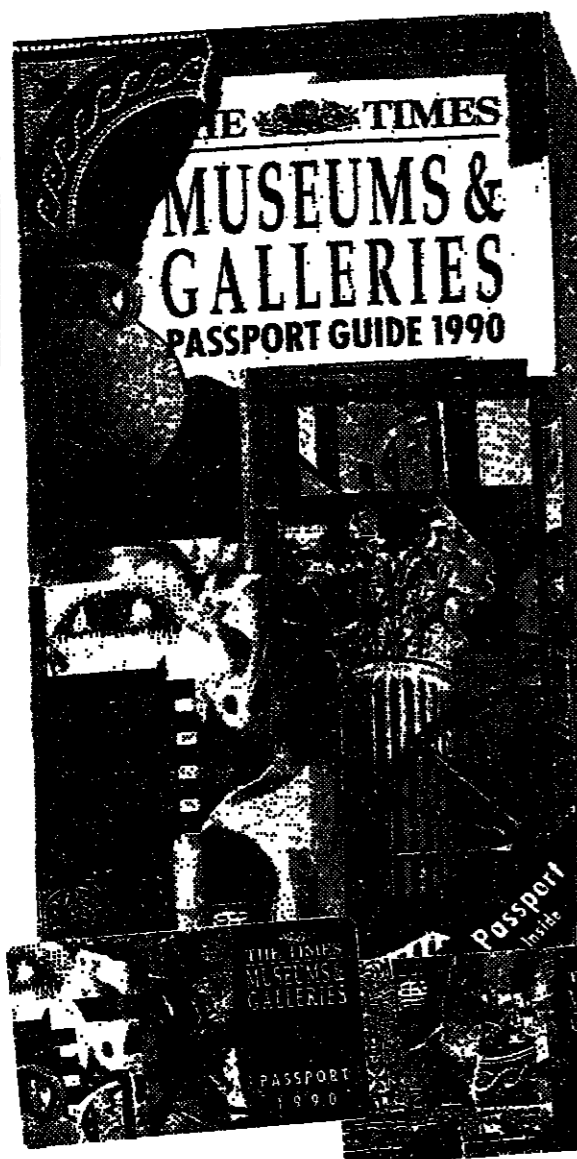
the first fruit of a new exchange programme with that company.

Stars of past, present and future made their contributions: the Bolshoi veterans Maya Plisetskaya, Vladimir Vasiliev and Ekaterina Maximova; Marcia Haydée and Richard Cragun from Stuttgart; Michael Clark in his "dinosaur" solo; Trinidad Sevilano and Patrick Armand of the new generation; Fernando Bujones holding the middle ground proudly in *Corsair*.

It was a pity that the television lady managed to get many of her announcements subtly and some-

times uproariously wrong. Hearty congratulations on the other hand to Keith Beckett, one of the company's earliest soloists, for staging the show so smoothly.

With astronomical seat prices, a raffle and an auction, one hopes the evening made a lot of money for the company. But the greatest pleasure was that it seemed so much a family affair for what many of us still think of as the London Festival Ballet. Hence the particular warmth of the performance and reception of the Rose Adagio. If the company can retain this feeling its future will be bright.



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Fragments of good, grotesque fun

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

The Trackers
of Oxyrhynchus
Olivier



Barrie Rutter in *The Trackers*

THOSE aiming to win ancient Athens's counterpart of the Academy Awards, the Greater Dionysia, had to know how to play the fool as well as how to plumb the depths. If you wanted to be proclaimed best dramatist, the fourth play in your programme was expected to blow raspberries at the Olympian solemnities that your previous three had assiduously celebrated.

Unluckily, the only surviving "satyr play" is Euripides's *Cyclops*, a tale of cannibalism and eye-gouging as likely to leave our theatregoers retching as laughing. However, fragments of others have been discovered, among them Sophocles's *Ichneutes* or *Trackers*. It was a version of this that Tony Harrison, the poet, presented at Delphi in 1988 and now brings, still more heavily restored, to the National.

Actually, "restoration" is no more the right word for this odd, disappointing piece than for a broken gargoyle to which a concrete torso has been anachronistically added. "Gratuitous elaboration" would be better. Harrison's reconstruction of the play fills only half the evening.

He devotes the rest to evoking the archaeological dig where the original was found, in Oxyrhynchus in 1907, and lecturing the wretched National Theatre audi-

ence for a callous attachment to "high art".

Jack Shepherd and Barrie Rutter begin as Grenfell and Hunt, the play's discoverers. The one walls dominantly on about their site's failure to yield literature instead of antique petitions; the other fusses over the papery littering Jocelyn Herbert's set. Then Shepherd's prim bleat becomes a roar, and he is dreaming a version of *Trackers* in which he plays a white-gowned Apollo and Rutter a more exotic satyr-king: orange body-stocking, white fur, long limp penis, yellow bat-ears.

The story that follows seems true enough to Sophocles's original. Yet more satyrs cluster about the stage like phallic cloggies as they hunt the cows that Apollo has lost and the infant Hermes has transformed into the gut portion of his new invention, the lyre. It is rather a long, repetitive quest; but it produces plenty of clever, colloquial rhymes, the kind that

made Harrison's updated miracle plays, *The Mysteries*, such a joy.

It also brings on stage Brian Glover's Hermes, a stocky pink "bovverbabe" in vast droopy diapers, and his nurse Kyllene, who inexplicably, if amusingly, is one of those stately caryatids Lord Elgin failed to steal from the Acropolis. Visually, this is good, grotesque fun, as it should be. Unluckily, Edna Dore's Kyllene fails to project; and the joke, which is that she intones Victorian verse while everyone else is aggressively contemporary, gets lost.

That was one point when one wondered if Harrison should have directed his own play. Before long, one is asking if, for all its imaginative derring-do, he should have written it. How Sophocles ended *Trackers* we can only guess; but I don't think it was by making his audience feel guilty for the crimes of elitism, class superiority and enjoying his tragedies.

That is Harrison's ending, though. Suddenly Rutter is remembering his fellow-satyr, Marsyas, flayed by Apollo for mastering the flute: "It confounded the categories of high and low / when Caliban could outplay Prospero." Such upper-crust arrogance, it seems, is responsible not merely for excluding our own "satyrs" from art, but for making them resentful, violent even homeless. We watch *Oedipus at Colonus*, they fester and explode beside Waterloo Station.

The last we see is a back-projection of the NT with the cast in cardboard boxes below. A subject, no doubt, for a play; but as inappropriate here as a pulpit in a circus — or a mortar-board on a satyr.

A dedicated revision of justice

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

AS an example of television at its best and as an indictment of Lord Chief Justice Lane's refusal to overturn the convictions of the Birmingham Six, last night's Granada drama-documentary *Who Bombed Birmingham?* came as close to devastating as makes no difference. True, the television company had a head start on any opposition. Through three programmes over the last four years, led by the researcher who became a Labour MP, Chris Mullin, *World in Action* has stayed with the story even when most other press and broadcasting teams grew disillusioned with the possibility of a new angle or a retrial.

What Mullin did was to operate quite brilliantly on two separate fronts. His obsessive dedication to the story was what John Hurt's performance best illustrated.

To prove the Birmingham Six, now in their sixteenth year of imprisonment, innocent as charged, it was necessary not just to show a massive police cover-up. Mullin also had to find the five men who in reality made and planted the

bombs. This he appears to have done. But even with the apparent with an ex-policeman testifying in court to the brutality with which his colleagues extracted false confessions using guns and dogs, the Court of Appeal still found no shadow of a doubt. Leslie Phillips' performance as Lane conjured up a whole panoply of legal machinery either unable or unwilling to deal with a mistake on this appalling scale.

Rob Ritchie's script for *Who Bombed Birmingham* inevitably borrowed the classic types from *All The President's Men*: the cynical producer-editor (Martin Shaw), the dedicated sleuth (Hurt) and his less convinced side-kick (Roger Allam). In the end it was enough just to re-enact interviews already given to *World in Action*. Terence Rigby as the stone-walling detective superintendent, Bob

Peck as the reluctant investigator, and David Ryall as the confused forensic man mysteriously removed from his job immediately after the first trial, all completed a jigsaw of terrifying official mismanagement.

Most damning of all came the final revelation that files have recently been secretly delivered to Granada from Birmingham police themselves, indicating that they knew as long as 15 years ago that the wrong men were imprisoned.

This programme, and the fresh inquiry already under way, must surely lead to a very serious reappraisal, not only of the original convictions, but also of the original of Appeal's sorry behaviour in this appalling affair. There can now be very little doubt that the worst mass murder in British history led on to the worst miscarriage of justice since the abolition of the death penalty. Those who still wish to see that penalty restored do well to consider the lives would undoubtedly have been taken in error.

THE ARTS

David Robinson reviews *A Short Film About Love, Dust in the Wind, The Citadel, Georgette Meunier* and *Motion and Emotion*

On the complexity of love and desire

The Polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski's monumental series of 50-minute films, *The Ten Commandments*, is to be transmitted by BBC 2 weekly from May 6. This week, a longer version of the "adultery" episode, intended for cinema showing and titled *A Short Film About Love* (18), opens at the Cannon Premiere, Swiss Centre and the Gate, Nottingham.

Only two of the films, this and *A Short Film About Killing*, which opened recently in London, were made in both television and cinema versions (for purely practical reasons of securing extra funding from the film industry). In each case the two versions are very different in narrative and tone. While the television version of *Killing* is a shade less merciless in its violence, *A Short Film About Love* is distinctly less optimistic in its resolution.

The stories are not literal illustrations of the Biblical edicts — sometimes it is even difficult to assign a story to its particular commandment. Kieslowski's intention was to test the ancient laws against problems of contemporary life and morality.

All 10 stories are located in and around the same apartment block, where the characters of these modern moralities are all neighbours. The protagonists of each film are different, but they are likely to turn up in subsidiary roles in other peoples' stories. One or two characters figure, albeit briefly, in every film. Major Polish stars appear in walk-on roles.

A Short Film About Love presents a very complex picture of desire, lust, love and what passes for perversion, and concludes that they are indivisible, just as comedy and tragedy are indivisible in real life. Tomek is a solitary youth without a family, lodging with the mother of his only friend who has gone abroad. His life is dominated by a single obsession: every night he spies through a telescope on a young woman in the flat across the way. He watches her undress and dress, bath and sleep, and unenthusiastically have sex with a variety of men.

Jealous, he finds tricks to frustrate these sex sessions, such as sending the gas inspectors round when the couple are having intercourse. Other devices include sending forged money-order notifications to lure the bewildered woman into the post office where he works by day. The story gets serious when Tomek is finally forced into an avowal of his feelings for her, and the relationship progresses to a complicated and potentially tragic dénouement.

Kieslowski's point is that the motives which drive people are so complex, and their instincts so innocent and irresistible

CINEMA

that the Old Testament texts are irrelevant. All human behaviour is enigmatic. We are left no less puzzled by the ambivalence of Tomek's landlady, her feeling for him somewhere between maternal protectiveness and erotic jealousy. Kieslowski observes his characters as minutely as the voyeur boy himself, and the result is a film of mesmerising piquancy. The casting and performance of all *The Ten Commandments* are exceptional. Here, Olaf Lubaszenko's Tomek is melancholy, sweet and clumsy, a lustful virgin. Grazyna Szapolowska, a beautiful young woman, plays a woman taught by bad experience systematically to guard herself against love. Their encounter can be nothing less than explosive. Kieslowski catches every nuance of it, in a film that comes as near perfection as may be.

You might argue that the title, *Dust in the Wind* (ICA), is an appropriate description of the cinema of Hou Hsiao-hsien, the outstanding Taiwanese director. (His newest film, the prize-winning *A City of Sadness*, opened at the Camden Plaza last week, and the ICA is presenting four of his earlier films in the course of the next three weeks.)

Fascinated by everyday human behaviour and emotions, and deeply affected by the troubled history of his own island, his films are all about ordinary people living out lives as uncontrollable as dust in the wind — driven by the vagaries of emotion, fate and the perils of history.

Dust in the Wind is not so much a story as a record of incidents in the life of a 15-year-old who leaves his village to work as a messenger boy in Taipei, taking his fiancée with him. They are poor but happy, until he is called up for military service. The girl gives him 1,096 stamped envelopes, one for every day he is away, but in time her replies cease to arrive.

Hou Hsiao-hsien is an anomaly in the Chinese cinema, which is orientated to formal stories and generally evades the subjective and autobiographical. All his stories seem to be based on episodes in his own life: *The Time to Live* and *The Time to Die*, also in the ICA retrospective, has a first-person commentary.

His style is distinctive. He uses long unbroken takes: every image is precisely, pictorially composed; he uses every area of the frame in staging his action; and in *Dust in the Wind* he experiments with the third dimension of the frame, contrasting foreground and background action.

More than for technical innovation, though, Hou Hsiao-hsien's films are

Grazyna Szapolowska in *A Short Film About Love*: a film of near-perfection

attractive for his portraits of ordinary life and people. In *Dust in the Wind* he shares his acute pleasure in watching how people cook and wash up and work and live their daily lives; how the generations communicate; how people's characters are affected by living in town or country. He has a special sensitivity to the way

that people look at one another, or avoid looking at one another; to meanings conveyed in banal everyday exchanges. At first a little mystifying to audiences used to being told clear stories, the films of Hou Hsiao-hsien offer very substantial pleasures of the human kind.

The *Citadel* (Metro, 15) starts out as a

picturesque Algerian rural comedy, with the usual cast of comedians, cuckolds, nagging wives, charlatans and the village simpleton (Khaled Barkat), the unhappy hero of the film. Bit by bit it hardens into a fierce attack on the tyranny of entrenched social and religious traditions.

The men, with their religious right to four wives if they can afford them, bully their women and cheat their friends. The women hide behind their veils, submit to humiliating marriage rituals, breed and work. The plight of poor simple Kaddour shows that there is no place in this hypocritical, male-dominated society for the gentle or sensitive. The film is visually beautiful and full of intriguing incidents and characters. The director, Mohamed Chouikh, says that it reflects both his own upbringing in a traditional Muslim family, and his fear for the future of his daughters.

Georgette Meunier (Everyman, 18) is an expert little entertainment, made in Germany and co-directed and co-scripted by a Swiss, Tania Stocklin, and a Frenchman, Cyrille Rey-Coquais. A poker-faced black comedy, its terse, economical style is inspired as much by the old German Expressionist horrors as by Fassbinder's anti-moralities.

Georgette, obsessed by incestuous love for her brother, who has been mislaid somewhere by the army, takes up a career as a mass-murderer and causes grave panic in a provincial town. The story is narrated in short, elliptical scenes, with much use of metonymous close-ups, and stylized acting. Clearly the film was made with financial as well as narrative economy: the cost-cutting only shows in the rather haphazard efforts at a period setting, which one guesses is supposed to represent the 1920s.

With no English-language feature film opening in London this week, the only part-British production is a documentary, *Motion and Emotion: The Films of Wim Wenders* (ICA Cinéma-thèque). Wenders and some of his collaborators, including Harry Dean Stanton, Peter Falk, Dennis Hopper, Sam Fuller, the cameraman Robby Müller and the novelist Patricia Highsmith, talk about Wenders.

A lot of platitudes are spoken, not least by Wenders himself ("a road movie is an itinerary"), but there are a few insights too, about the making of *Kings of the Road* and *Paris, Texas*, and Wenders' admission of his quite evident difficulties in giving his pictures endings.

● This year's Oscar-winning film *My Left Foot*, Driving Miss Daisy, Born on the Fourth of July and *Glory* are still showing. See page 22 for details.

Huston's creation

VIDEO BOX
Geoff Brown

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The date refers to the year of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

THE BIBLE. IN THE BEGINNING (CBS/Fox, U): Genesis chapters 1-22, filmed by John Huston with intermittent flair. Adam and Eve get the world off to a dire start, but the Tower of Babel and Huston's acting turn as Noah make some amends. 1966.

BROADCAST NEWS (CBS/Fox, PG): The Dave Clark Five come low in the charisma stakes, but John Goodman (directing his first feature) and writer Peter Nichols give a jaunty touch to this tale of a West Country spree, made in the wake of *A Hard Day's Night*. 1985.

CATCH US IF YOU CAN (Warner, PG): The Dave Clark Five come low in the charisma stakes, but John Goodman (directing his first feature) and writer Peter Nichols give a jaunty touch to this tale of a West Country spree, made in the wake of *A Hard Day's Night*. 1985.

HELPI (Video Collection, U): Exuberant Beatles songs and some dazzling visuals, but the zany comedy seriously suffers from overkill. Richard Lester directs; Leo McKern is the oriental priest desperate to rescue a sacred ring. 1965.

INDIANA JONES AND THE LAST CRUSADE (CIC, PG): More of the same, but with a father (Sean Connery) thrown in and an increased emphasis on character. Spielberg orchestrates the action with customary flair, though the set-pieces are getting to be too familiar. 1989.

JEAN DE FLORETTE/MANON DES SOURCES (Palace, PG): Claude Berri's riveting version of Marcel Pagnol's Provencal saga of pride, greed, and retribution. Beautifully acted, particularly by Gérard Depardieu and Daniel Auteuil; only Emmanuelle Béart's too-modern Manon lets the side down. 1986.

THE KARATE KID PART III (RCA/Columbia, PG): Threadbare sequel, featuring the kid and his mentor fighting off vengeful villains. 1989.

LIFE IN EMERGENCY WARD TEN (Odyssey, U): Everyday story of hole-in-the-heart operations, quadruple births, and doctors in love. This 1959 spin-off from ATV's popular series supplements the original cast with Michael Craig and others, but the nostalgia element is still overpowering.

MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR (Video Collection, PG): The Beatles' self-made extravaganza which so displeased the general public on its television premiere on Boxing Day, 1967. Time has not improved the boys' concealed attempts at fantasy cinema, though the music remains potent.

THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH (Warner, 18): David Bowie as the extra-terrestrial who builds an American corporate empire. High-gloss science-fiction from Nicholas Roeg, overloaded with metaphysical trappings but impressively mounted. 1978.

MOVE OVER DARLING (CBS/Fox, U): The story seemed far funnier as *My Favourite Wife* in 1940, while Doris Day and James Garner hardly match Cary Grant and Irene Dunne for charm. But the glossy packaging and Sixties fashions provide modest fun. 1963.

PEEPING TOM (Warner, 18): Michael Powell's most startling, unsettling film: a probe into voyeurism and cinema's mechanical eye, wrapped in the clothes of a lurid psychological thriller. Carl Boehm as the photographer-cum-murderer; the director, briefly, as his father. 1960.

Dilettante's doodling detour

JAZZ

Clive Davis

Nigel Kennedy/
London Wasp Factory
Blackheath Hall

THE last time a concert was held in the imposing main hall at Blackheath was in 1939. With the advent of war, the venue was requisitioned by the Government and ultimately turned over to clerical use. The long process of renovation, begun in earnest in 1983, is still some way from completion. For their inaugural concert, the violinist Nigel Kennedy and his jazz quintet, London Wasp Factory, were content to set up shop against the wall at the side.

Everyone's favourite Jack-the-Lad, Kennedy swigs beer from a bottle and larks around on-stage: he does his best to overturn all the conventions. The multi-coloured jacket, apparently depicting the Last Supper, is part of an endearing act. Yet with London Wasp Factory he seems stuck in a blind alley.

This is not the first time, of course, that he has tried his hand at jazz — as a teenager he played with Stephane Grappelli. About three years ago I remember being trapped in the cellar of the Rock

Garden as he lumbered through some stormy jazz-rock from the *Let Loose* album. Around the same time he released a quiet, under-rated arrangement of Duke Ellington's suite, "Black, Brown And Beige".

The material on offer at Blackheath was more delicate than anything on *Let Loose*. Indeed, the show opened promisingly with Alec Dankworth laying down a walking bass line on "Bags Groove" as the other members of the band entered one by one. For most of the evening the rhythm players cruised along reliably enough, though Andy Barron's drums were often too strident.

The long and the short of it is that, unless you are as nimble as Stephane Grappelli, a violin makes little impact in a straight-jazz setting. On ballads such as "Lover Man", Kennedy had the space to indulge in elegant, fluid lines, but as the tempo picked up, he was struggling to avoid being overwhelmed by the band.

Whenever he tried to blast his way to the front, in the style of a horn player, he inevitably sacrificed much of his tone. His guitarist, Jeff Green, is a capable pop player, but Kennedy probably needs a more assertive foil to take some of the strain of soloing.

Dipping into Grace Jones's LP, *Nightclubbing*, the group developed a faint Latin beat on "I've Done It Again", but then played

the piece into the ground as Kennedy compounded away on the piano. The audience — mainly attracted, I suspect, by the success of his recording of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* — was much taken with it. A hardened jazz crowd would have been less patient.



Nigel Kennedy: larks about

Honey, I shrunk the movies

Geoff Brown on the
losers when a film
transfers to video

I pushed a review cassette of *Jean de Florette* into the VCR's mouth, and my heart sank. The image was letterboxed, trapped top and bottom between inches of black space; the subtitles, moreover, were yellow. Once the credits had unfolded, part of the image expanded in size to fill the available screen. Pagnol's story and characters gradually took hold, and a good time, eventually, was had by all.

It was not the same good time that we might have enjoyed in a cinema. But such is life in 1990. Some 80 per cent of all films are now viewed at home on a small screen, via video or television. Selected art-house classics may get the letterbox treatment throughout; but most modern films are subjected to scanning, panning and cropping to squeeze their wide-screen image into the television's square. On a good night, the edited image flows insidiously with only scattered hiccoughs; on a bad night, two noses converse from either side of the screen.

The problem has been with us since the late 1950s, when CinemaScope films — produced by Hollywood to make the television product look puny — bowed to the inevitable and appeared in the schedules of the rival medium. Ed Sullivan and Lucille Ball continued to look good; it was CinemaScope that appeared puny. Thirty years later, improved technology cloaks some of the differences in screen size and ratio, but the problem has become compounded by the speed of the transfer to hearth and home.

Occasional blockbusters such as *Batman* make a grand video entrance some nine months to a year

after their West End bow. But generally the time-span is shorter, the cinema release has already done its job in stimulating public interest. Much simple-minded action fodder (*Cyborg*, *Ghettoblaster*, *Red Scorpion*; their names are legion) never raises its head in a cinema at all. The distributors estimate, correctly, that potential buyers would not be budgeted, whatever *The Times* thought of Dolph Lundgren's muscles.

What, then, are the consequences for the painstaking director or photographer who aims for careful compositions and subtle spatial relationships? The editor who cuts scenes as a jeweller cuts diamonds? The actor who gives the performance of his life on the left edge of a busy screen? In a word, the consequences are dismal, and the aesthetic choices in film-making have consequently shrunk. Camera viewfinders now feature a dotted line marking out the area visible on television; it would be a rash cameraman who did not aim to keep Dustin Hoffman, the carnivorous aspidochelone, Jacqueline Bisset's legs, or whatever the scene's focal point, firmly within that hallowed square.

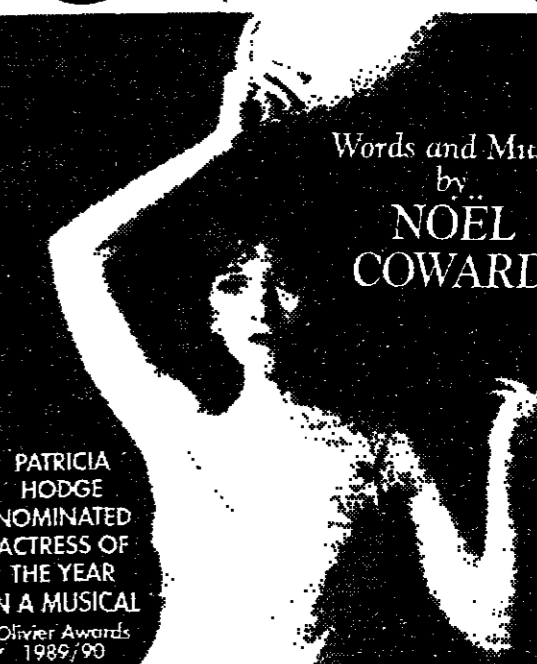
Martin Scorsese has declared that he would love to indulge his passion for CinemaScope and shoot all his output in the process; he holds himself back precisely because he knows what shrivelled images would result, once the films landed on television or video. In the Far East, things are different: Western audiences were bowled over by Chen Kaige's *Yellow Earth* partly because Chinese directors are not afraid to compose boldly on a large canvas.

To be fair to the living-room's square-eyed monster, there is the odd plus-factor in home viewing. You can watch *The Greatest Story Ever Told* entirely on fast-forward; you can freeze-frame the looks that Hardy gives Laurel. There are

no tall, spiky heads to obscure the view. You can avoid the stale fragrance of popcorn, and duck the agonies of public transport. But you cannot do proper justice to any film worthy of cinema's great tradition, where the director and crew are not simply pushing a narrative from A to Z, but weaving visual magic over a canvas far larger than the biggest television set can provide.

In the case of wide-screen films of the past, many still exist in their original form to be viewed at specialized cinemas and archives. Film fans must fight to ensure their survival. But they should also worry more about the films of the future, with their neatly centred, cut-and-dried images, easily digestible by television and video. They should ponder, too, on the unmade CinemaScope masterpieces of Martin Scorsese.

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HEALTH

An extraordinary ability

How will the success of *My Left Foot* affect the disabled? Chris Davies, a broadcaster and writer who has cerebral palsy, gives his personal view

I have seen *My Left Foot* twice now. My first viewing was not objective at all. I was totally overawed by the similarities between the image of cerebral palsy portrayed in the film, and my own experiences as someone who shares the same disability as Christy Brown.

The similarity was so great that my concentration was completely focused on the Christy/Chris Davies link, rather than on the other factors in the film. After the second viewing I was more objective — partly because by then I was aware of public reaction. The first time I saw *My Left Foot* was at a press preview, the second was in a commercial cinema. By this time I had read the critics' verdicts on the film, universally acclaiming Daniel Day-Lewis but not particularly appreciating Christy Brown. The small audience in that commercial cinema was also a sobering influence.

Indeed, if that audience was anything to go by, it is quite possible that *My Left Foot* is the most highly-acclaimed film to be seen (until now, at least) by such a relatively small number of people. This is hardly surprising — a film about a man with little speech, disabled by cerebral palsy, in working-class Dublin in the 1940s is not at first glance the most commercially attractive prospect. In fact, I hope the most immediate benefit to come from the awards the film has received is that more people will now want to see it. Then, perhaps, it will escape from the art-house groove.

In the television news coverage of the Oscars, the film was described as "unsentimental". This is not quite correct. It is an honest film, and gives a representation of cerebral palsy which few will have seen before, with an accuracy unexpected in a work of fiction. However, *My Left Foot* is fiction in that it is not an unadulterated re-telling of Christy Brown's story. An important part of the film is taken up with Christy's love for a doctor who helps to improve his speech and self-esteem. Such a figure never actually existed. The book on which the film is based also has much space devoted to Christy's low opinion of disability, and of those who have other disabilities. There is much talk of "cripples" and people being "afflicted". Thankfully, the film does not faithfully represent these views.

So, while the film gives a racy, sentimentalized picture of cerebral palsy and Irish working-class life of the era, the same sentimentality accentuates the positive in Christy. His depressions and love of alcohol are only hinted at.

For all these reservations, the film is a powerful start introduction to cerebral palsy and the potential of Christy Brown. This potential is not best served by his autobiography. His novels and poems are far better testament to his ability to weave word spells. I have not seen his paintings — most of those in the film were painted by



Shared emotions: Chris Davies hopes nobody who sees the film pities Christy Brown or sympathizes with him

'His depressions are only hinted at — and the film ends on an artificially high note'

someone else in his style — but if his visual art was of the standard of his written work, Christy Brown must rank as one of the 20th century's great all-round artists.

It is my most urgent wish that anyone who sees the film will emerge fascinated by Christy. I hope nobody pities him; I hope nobody sympathizes with him. The best reaction would be that people understand him; if a sense of wonder is felt, it should only be about the talents of the man. Regrettably, I suspect that this will not happen.

I said earlier that the critics were fairly unanimous in their comments. A common thread was an appreciation of Daniel Day-Lewis, but a less than enlightened view of Christy Brown. If viewers leave the cinema thinking more about the actor than the character he portrays, this is not a reflection of the actor's skill or lack of it. It is more concerned with the juxtaposition of an actor known not to be disabled playing a character so demonstratively disabled. Even I still wonder at how Daniel Day-Lewis managed this feat.

Among the disabled community there is much controversy about casting able-bodied actors in the roles of disabled characters. The arguments are valid, but even if one puts them to one side it is still surely possible to understand that it is wrong if the film *My Left Foot* leads to a greater appreciation of an actor's skill than of the abilities and personality of the character he portrays. And that is always a danger if the actor is known to be from a very different walk of life from that represented on film or on stage.

Daniel Day-Lewis's perfor-



Christy Brown (left) and actor Daniel Day-Lewis with his Oscar: which will cinema-goers remember?

mance is astonishing in its accuracy and power, conveying as far as it is possible for a non-disabled performer the detail of lack of speech and body co-ordination characteristic of cerebral palsy. This accuracy should result in a better public understanding of my disability. However, if this is to work, the public should remember Christy Brown, not Daniel Day-Lewis.

So what now? I feel the public will know more about cerebral palsy and Christy Brown, and will want to find out more about his work. In addition to his books being republished, cinema and television might consider translating these works into drama. If this happens, or if any future projects about cerebral palsy are now deemed commercially viable, I hope the film and television industry will seek out disabled actors.

Cerebral palsy is not the best-understood disability. In recent years public perception has been mainly shaped by

children attending Hungary's Peto Institute in an attempt to overcome their disability. Unlike his autobiography, the film shows Christy succeeding as a writer and artist not because this provided a means of overcoming his disability, but simply because he had the talent. The film is a celebration of the whole man, placing equal weight on his talent and disability.

If the film encourages people to adopt this view it will be a huge step forward. Disabled people are very used to playing down the difference of disability because they perceive a negative public perception of it. This is not a healthy state of affairs. Disabled people should be accepted for what they are, not forced into denying their difference. The difference obviously exists, and should be accepted positively. *My Left Foot* might help in this process. God knows, a shift in public perception is much needed, but is this too much to ask of a film?

DAVID HEVEY

First lady of joints



Dr Thomas Stuttford



Trail blazer: Clare Marx

THE history of teaching hospitals in London goes back to the 12th century, and for much of the time since, the only surgery practised in them would today be classified as orthopaedic. But never throughout these centuries has a woman been appointed as an orthopaedic surgeon until last month, when Clare Marx joined the staff of St Mary's and St Charles's Hospital.

St Mary's has also recently confounded the traditionalists by merging with London's Imperial College of Science and Technology, thereby creating, it is hoped, a medical and scientific institution which will stand comparison with any in the world. Among the many combined projects already underway are several between orthopaedic surgeons from St Mary's and the department of mechanical engineering at Imperial College; doctors and engineers work together to study the biophysics of cartilage; from the knowledge of bio-engineering they gain they will design improved artificial joints. Clare Marx has joined one of the teams and is working on finger joints; they hope to find something rather better than the silastic (pliable plastic) insert which is at present used to replace a finger joint removed because of disease. Artificial finger joints are often needed to alleviate the suffering and disability of fingers distorted by the ravages of rheumatoid arthritis.

So masculine is the orthopaedic world that when Miss Marx took her initial ward round at St Mary's, an old woman in the very first bed peered at her incredulously, and then greeted her with a challenge: "And just who are you, duckie?" It is not only elderly patients who expect an orthopaedic surgeon to be a man, for

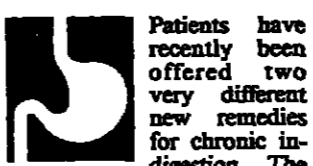
there is a well-known saying that orthopaedic surgeons are as strong as an ox and twice as bright; in contrast Clare Marx is slight, young and, in common with most current orthopaedic surgeons, exceedingly bright. A handful of women have been appointed as consultant orthopaedic surgeons outside London, but in general they have an approach to medicine and life which is as robust as their humour, and more fitted to the rugby club bar than the drawing-room.

Despite her commitment to Imperial College, Miss Marx is more interested in teaching and clinical surgery than research.

Her life has been full of contrasts; she went from a grant-aided school to Cheltenham Ladies College, opted to go to University College Hospital rather than Oxford, but then left London to return home to Coventry. While in Coventry, working in a run-down, now defunct hospital, she was inspired by a surgeon, Alan Rhodes, who taught her that three qualities were needed to make a good surgeon: intelligence, good surgical hands and an ability to talk to patients.

Inspired by Mr Rhodes, Miss Marx returned to the London teaching hospital orthopaedic circuit, where she worked with and won the support of many of the great names in the specialty. Miss Marx is pleased and relieved that after her promotion of her she has been successful. "If I had failed they would have suffered ridicule for breaking ranks and selecting a woman as their senior registrar; but even so, I would not like only to be thought of as the first woman orthopaedic surgeon in a London teaching hospital, I would rather be recognized as a good surgeon by my colleagues."

Stomach aids

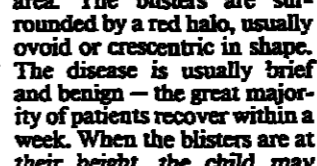


Patients have recently been offered two very different new remedies for chronic indigestion. The

All India Institute of Medical Research has reported in *The Lancet* that three-quarters of the patients with indigestion, but no ulcer, responded well to an eight-week diet rich in bananas. In striking contrast to this simple, cheap approach, *Pulse* has announced that Prepulse (cisapride), a preparation previously used only in hospitals, is now available in general practice. It is prescribed for the treatment of oesophageal reflux, the heartburn which occurs when the acid stomach contents flow back into the bottom end of the gullet.

Prepulse acts by increasing gastro-intestinal motility, thereby speeding stomach emptying and tightening the sphincter valve between the stomach and the oesophagus.

Cancer heat



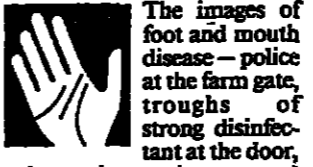
As a young doctor, Professor Hugh Simpson won the Polar Medal, and was also awarded the Mungo Park Medal of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society for his work in Antarctica. As part of his research he studied alterations in the hormone levels of team members when they left the sanctuary of the base camp to face the hazards of a sledging expedition across ice. Hugh Simpson is now professor of pathology at Glasgow. In the past 25 years his terrain has shrunk, and he is now charting the geography of the human breast rather than that of the Antarctic ice cap. However, he is certain that his recent research is quite as important as that which won him scientific acceptance in the Sixties. His work has shown that there is a significant difference between the variations in the temperature of the breast which occur in the normal, as opposed to the malignantly diseased, breast, in the course of the 28-day menstrual cycle. In order to measure the temperature of the breast, Professor Simpson has designed a very sophis-

ticated bra with 16 collar-shaped heat sensors sewn into its cups. These sensors are attached to a solid-state electronic information storage device which is packed into a marzipan pouch, stitched into the bra where it fits between the breasts. Professor Simpson's patients wear the bra under a tight shirt for an hour and a half each evening. For the first half-hour, while the bra warms up, they carry on with normal activities; for the rest of the time, they sit quietly watching television. The temperature sensors, spread in a pattern over the breasts, include one as a control from the shoulder strap. The temperature is taken every minute, and is then recorded by the information storage device which is capable of remembering 4,000 different readings. Simpson has shown that breast temperatures are from one to three degrees centigrade higher than those from the shoulder, and the breast temperature varies according to the stage of the menstrual cycle. In a woman with normal breasts, breast temperature peaks around the 26th day of the cycle, four days after progesterone levels, which are also measured daily, are at their highest. Any breast which has suffered from a malignant tumour fails to show this characteristic peak.

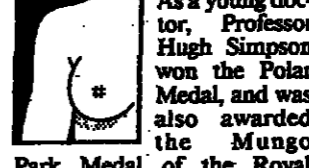
Professor Simpson has now studied 19 sets of temperature recordings from diseased breasts, 24 sets from healthy breasts and has subsequently analysed the pattern of these recordings with the help of a computer. This has shown a very distinct difference between the two groups. Diseased breasts have one or two slightly differing temperature patterns, whereas healthy breasts all have the same pattern, which is one easily distinguished from that produced by a malignant breast.

Professor Simpson believes that his bra will provide reassuring information for pre-menopausal women who have a high risk of breast cancer, possibly related to a strong family history, for many will be found to have a normal temperature variation pattern; it will also give early warning, in time for preventive measures to be taken, for those whose temperature recording pattern is abnormal.

Blister virus



The images of foot and mouth disease — police at the farm gate, troughs of strong disinfectant at the door, red warning notices around the property — were not very reassuring for a *Times* journalist when he was told his young son had the disease. In fact, he had not got foot and mouth disease, but hand-foot-and-mouth disease, a much less sinister, although still very striking, complaint. Hand-foot-and-mouth disease is caused by one of the Coxsackie virus group of 29 organisms which have recently achieved some notoriety, because members of the ME Association believe that viruses from this group are the cause of their troubles. In hand-foot-and-mouth disease the patient, usually a child, has a fever for a day or two before developing characteristic blisters which run parallel to the lines of the skin creases of the hands and feet, mainly on the backs of the fingers and toes but also on the palms themselves. Similar blisters



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THE TIMES ON SATURDAY IN COLOUR

A CAFE stands where Henry V led his troops at Agincourt. Tom Pocock has toured the area and, as he reports in *The Times* on Saturday, little has changed; anyone who was there on St Crispin's Day would surely recognize the battlefield today.

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BOOKS

Celebrities of the Eighties

John Grigg on the latest lustrum of great and good, bad and famous

A new volume of the *DNB* is a predictable delight. This one covers only the first half of the 1980s, instead of the accepted period since the beginning of the century. As a result we have a more conveniently sized book (about 500 rather than 1,000 pages), and the editors further justify the change with the argument that it has enabled them "to capture the personal knowledge of colleagues who under the 10-year rule might already themselves have joined the entrants".

The editors set a good example to their contributors by writing excellent pieces themselves. Lord Blake's two, on Arthur Bryant and John Vaizey, are models of their kind, combining a record of the essential facts with shrewd assessment and strong personal flavour. He says that Bryant "seldom went abroad", which is doubtless true, though it is also true that in his youth he went on roistering expeditions to Paris with his friend Charles Morgan (in the manner of Dickens and Wilkie Collins). The co-editor, Dr Christine Nicholls, writes about Dr H. A. H. Boot, a distinguished and creative scientist, whose merits appear to have been overlooked by the Royal Society.

Among the political pieces in the volume, Ian Gilmour on R. A. Butler is outstanding, in quality as well as length. Gilmour describes Butler as "one of the two best post-war chancellors" (the other, presumably, Roy Jenkins), and, while acknowledging that he was "the master of many types of ambiguity", notes perceptively that he "had a strong vein of innocence, rare in sophisticated politicians". In the Suez crisis his "deviousness was honesty itself compared with the duplicity of Eden and some colleagues", and he was more consistent than Macmillan, who, nevertheless, emerged as his successful rival for the premiership. These are tough judgements, but on some issues history cannot be truthful without being tough.

Suez was the finest political

hour of Edward Boyle, whose entry is contributed by Edward Heath: an interesting and in many ways sympathetic piece, which does justice, as might be expected, to Boyle's "profound knowledge of music and musicians". But on the political side one passage, involving author as well as subject, leaves me wondering: "As leader of the Conservative Party, Edward Heath made a number of attempts... to persuade Boyle to move to other front-bench positions to enable him to widen his experience in preparation for the highest offices in government. However, he repeatedly refused and in 1970 retired from Parliament in order to devote more time to what had now become his overwhelming interest, education."

Which were the front-bench positions that Boyle was offered and refused? It was my impression at the time that there were at least three positions that he would have accepted, and so have remained in the House of Commons instead of leaving it to take the vice-chancellorship of Leeds. Education was certainly a great interest, but not overwhelming. (He had not responded to an earlier overture from King's College, London.) Politics was his first and still, I believe, his principal love, despite the disheartening experience, for a man of his views, of having to deal with the Tory rank-and-file as spokesman on home affairs, and then education, after 1964.

A number of important writers died during the period under review, and on the whole they are well served. Kingsley Amis contributes an admirable piece on John Betjeman, whose poetry, he fairly states, "has continued to enjoy a popularity unknown in this country since the days of Rudyard Kipling and A.E. Houseman". John Wain is responsible for three superb entries, on William Empson, Robert Graves, and Philip Larkin, in which he achieves exactly the right balance between personal description and literary appraisal. The same can not, alas, be said of Woodrow Wyatt's piece on Arthur Koestler,

which gives an inadequate account of Koestler's work - referring, for instance, almost perfunctorily to *Darkness at Noon*, on any view one of the most influential books of the century. (But Wyatt's other contribution, on George Wigg, is a complete success.)

A question of editorial judgement arises when we consider the relative scale of Michael Kitson's piece on Anthony Blunt. Admittedly, Blunt qualifies for inclusion in the dual capacity of "art historian and communist spy", but even so it seems perverse that he receives rather more space than Koestler. By the same token it is hard to understand why Sheridan Morley should have been allowed about a column more for his entry on Ralph Richardson than Charles Osborne for his on Adrian Boult, though one should add that Morley writes very well on Richardson, as he does (more briefly) on David Niven.

THE DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY 1981-1985

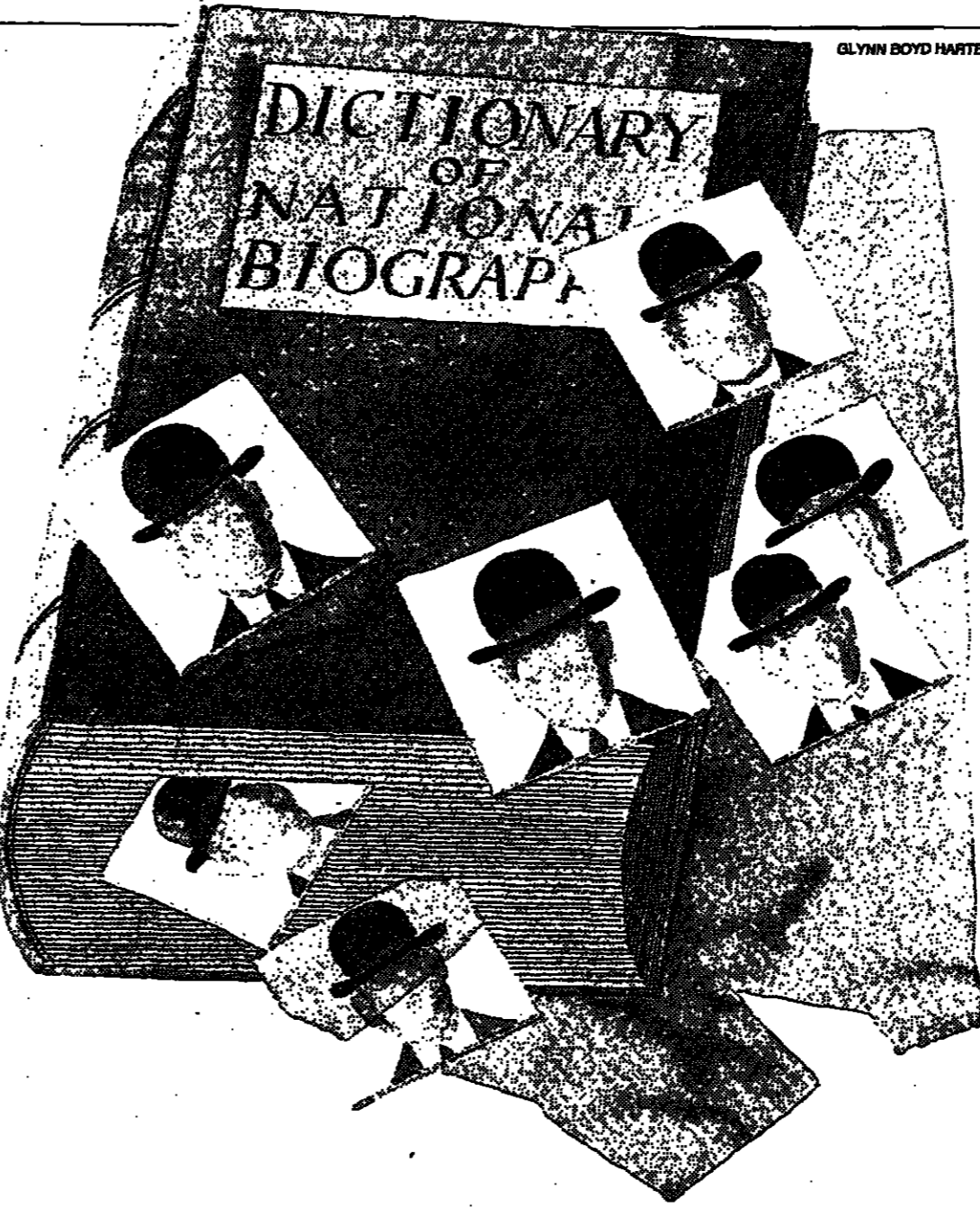
Edited by Lord Blake and C. S. Nicholls
Oxford, £40

Among other figures of stage and screen, Celia Johnson's entry is by William Douglas-Home, who does not neglect to point out that she "starred in four successful plays" by himself. Another actress-dame, Flora Robson, is portrayed with painful honesty by Marius Goring. There are good pieces on Arthur Askey (by Richard Murdoch) and Eric Morecambe (by Dick Hills); and any doubts one might have about Diana Dors's right to be included at all are dispelled by Peter Waymark's account of her.

The clergy are usually a promising category, and this volume features three controversial Anglican priests: Canon John Collins, Bishop John Robinson, and

Michael Scott. Trevor Beeson writes a competent piece on Collins, without quite bringing out the quality of geniality which, together with his exceptional talent for administration, would have made him such a good bishop, or dean of St Paul's, if only the authorities had possessed the imagination to appoint him. Eric James shows, as in his biography, deep insight into the personality of Robinson, whose essential conservatism was so little appreciated by his critics in the Church. Trevor Huddleston pays a just tribute to Michael Scott's pioneering work as an anti-apartheid campaigner, but seems ultimately a bit baffled by his marvellous, though elusive, character.

The media are represented by, among others, Roy Plomley, in a suitably bland entry by Richard Baker. How often was the *DNB* mentioned by one of his castaways as the work, apart from the Bible or Shakespeare, to be taken to his desert island? It would probably be my choice.



GLYN BOYD HART

Mambo jambo in Big Apple

FICTION

Jasper Rees

THE MAMBO KINGS PLAY SONGS OF LOVE

By Oscar Hijuelos
Hamish Hamilton, £13.99

THE NEON BIBLE

By John Kennedy Toole
Viking, £12.50

THE WAGER

By Machado de Assis
Translated by R. L. Scott-Bucclough

Peter Owen, £12.95

A quartet of novels from the Americas, two of them long unpublished, find their way into British hard covers this week. The most welcome arrival is Oscar Hijuelos's *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love*, an exuberant portrait of the Hispanic music scene and Cuban family culture in New York in the Forties and Fifties.

Though real figures flit about on the fringes of the narrative, at the core of the story are a pair of fictitious brothers, Cesar and Nestor Castillo, the front men of an orchestra called the Mambo Kings, which is big in the Big Apple during the post-war mambo boom. This is their story, in fact it is mainly Cesar's story, as the events described are seen more or less through his eyes, as his long vigil on death's door draws to a close. Nestor dies young, his epitaph a bitter-sweet ballad called "Beautiful Maria of My Soul", which at the peak of their career the brothers performed on the *I Love Lucy* television show with Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz.

One of the many glories of this beautifully sentimental novel is that its author writes about sex with an unashamedly florid Latin hand - frequently, and at length. Though Nestor can also move a mountain or two in bed, priapic Cesar is the true sexual conqueror: irresistible to women of all shapes and sizes, he mostly favours just one shape and size (this is not a book for feminists or sexual realists). Another of the novel's glories is that it is just as involving when Cesar falls into impotent, alcoholic old age. Loaded with life, it also manages to be a moving contemplation of death.

John Kennedy Toole, who committed suicide at 31 in 1969, and whose posthumously published *A Confederacy of Dunces* won the Pulitzer Prize in 1981, wrote *The Neon Bible* at the age of 16. Though markedly less ambitious than the later novel, it is still a work of honest precociousness.

The young narrator David is brought up in a small, and small-minded, southern town in the 1940s by a gruff father, a doting mother, and an eccentric old aunt called Mae, who used to sing on the stage, and dresses as if she still does. In the absence of friends and siblings (the family are isolated by their poverty), David hangs out with Mae, the soft folds of whose flesh offer a welcome berth in an inimical world. David's few encounters with other people are incomprehensibly fraught with painful rejection: his Bible-thumping teacher is a psychological bully; a boy he is forced to play

with one afternoon beats him up; and a girlfriend he acquires much later drops him after one date.

There are slight twinges of self-pity in the description of these episodes, but Toole's youth allows him to confront each new disaster with the same deadpan wit. Although J. D. Salinger's Holden Caulfield is obviously a comparable voice, David's commentary on the domestic battle zone and the local effects of the World War is less prone to solipsism, less eager to look for patterns in the loneliness, which makes the harrowing finale, quietly narrated in the manner of less melodramatic events that have gone before, all the more of a jolt. Belatedly, a promising debut.

Finally, *The Wager* is the last of nine novels by the Brazilian writer Machado de Assis. Originally published in 1908, the year of his death, it is an affecting consideration of the telescoped hopes and fears that come with old age. Subtitled "Aires' Journal", it gives a diarist's view of genteel Rio de Janeiro drawing-rooms in which, as in the world of Jane Austen, the large-scale political events have less immediate impact, less power to maim and endanger, than the small-scale social ones.

Returning home after a long career abroad as a diplomat, Aires enters into a bet with his sister that he will marry a young widow whom they see dutifully decorating her deceased husband's grave, although he soon drops out of the race when the much younger Tristao returns from Portuguese exile. The plot turns on whether or not Fidelia will exchange weeds for wedlock, but Machado's real concern is the effect her and Tristao's movements have on their adoptive parents, who adore both equally and conspire to unite them. Although given over to busy emotional politicking, it is an amiable novel, touchingly elegiac in tone.

Out of darkness into limelight

Gillian Tindall

IN THE BEGINNING

By Irina Ratushinskaya
Translated by Alyona Kojevnikov
Hodder & Stoughton, £14.95

It has been the exceptional fate of Irina Ratushinskaya to have her identity changed dramatically not once but twice before reaching her mid-thirties. Born and brought up in the seaside city of Odessa as an ordinary Russian girl, she was transformed at 28 into a political prisoner of the Soviet Gulag. But her four years in a camp as a victim of monstrous ill-treatment - the calvary she has already memorably documented in *Grey is the Colour of Hope* - did not succeed either in snuffing out her developing poetic gift or in killing her, though it might well have done both. Instead, the interest and sympathy her plight aroused in the west effected a further transformation: when Irina emerged from jail, very ill, in 1986, it was to find herself a world-famous poet and female symbol of triumph.

To be an icon must be a daunting prospect, however gratifying, like suddenly finding oneself Queen. How does any normal human being cope with the challenge, particularly one who is still a young woman with a domestic life to make as well as a public one? What mixed emotions, for example, must one feel at seeing one's own unique experience borrowed to lend spurious weight to a parochial television drama about domestic violence? (Last month's *Small Zones*). It is not surprising that, after the first heady year of celebrity appearances and poetry readings, Irina has gone to ground.

She and her husband Igor now live a classic émigré existence in an unpretentious north London suburb. Both have abandoned for the time being the scientific disciplines in which they were raised and by which both earned their livings in Russia: Igor sculpts while Irina continues to write. Those in touch with her hope that an important work is brewing: *In the Beginning* is more in the nature of a supplement to *Grey is the Colour of Hope*. It fills in the

detail that the stark account of prison did not provide, and tells one what this woman's childhood and youth were like, by what private paths she travelled to the door that led into the Gulag. It fulfils an important task, that of bridging for admirers of the prison poetry the gap between the icon and the young girl, who grew up wanting a home and children like anyone else.

If Christian imagery of darkness and rebirth rises readily to mind, that is apt. Irina was, like most Russian children of her generation, brought up a good little atheist. But, like many in eastern Europe, Irina and Igor found in the Church not merely a consolation but an active source of inspiration. When they managed a church wedding, half on the run already, Irina was lent a dress by a fellow dissident; an old woman at the church was prepared to donate her own wedding ring. Again and again in this account, which is objectively so full of pain, what comes across is a sense of the minor joyfulness of life, and of that indomitable sense of communion with family and friends which is one of the more heart-lifting Russian characteristics. One also understands that, despite its ordeals, dissent had its own satisfactions; and, what's more, that most of Russian society has been engaged in a passive or devious dissent for decades, even if it has often, as Irina says, been "merely cocking a snook behind a closed door".

All that is, for the time being, a lost land to Irina and Igor. Whether they will eventually be able to revisit Russia, whether their relations will be equally free to visit them, remains in the unknowable future - and they are less than optimistic about the real nature of perestroika. But time moves on: this book itself must have been to some extent overtaken by events in the course of publication. The one thing that can be stated with certainty is that someone of Irina Ratushinskaya's intelligence and clarity of mind surely has further identities within her waiting to be born.

NEW HARDBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books:

The Classical Era, edited by Neal Zaslaw, and *The Renaissance*, edited by Iain Fenlon (Macmillan, £18.95, and paperback £9.95) First two vols of new eight-volume "Man & Music" series, musicology.

The Fall of the Roman Empire, by Michael Grant (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £18.95) Revised survey of the interesting divisions that brought down the empire that looked as though it would last for ever.

Giorgione's Tempest, interpreting the hidden subject, by Salvatore Settis, translated by Ellen Blanchini (Polity Press, £25).

Life in the Georgian City, by Dan Cruickshank and Neil Burton (Viking, £25) Nicely illustrated architectural history and sociology.

Oxford, Town and Gown, by Marilyn Yurdan (Hale, £12.95) Civilized modern guide to Oxford as a whole ("and what a hole", Cantab).

What is a dial-in port?

- a) Folkestone
- b) a left-handed telephone
- c) the way into a Vax

Read

THE CUCKOO'S EGG

by Clifford Stoll

THE BODLEY HEAD £12.95

The TES Guide

The Times Educational Supplement recently published a six-part guide to Local Management of Schools, with case studies, checklists, advice and warnings on all aspects of LMS. It is now available in a consolidated 24-page format, with an attractive plastic wallet, for £2.50 (incl. p & p). To order copies of the complete guide, fill in the form below. For orders of 25 and over please contact Pat Lloyd on 01-639 0333.

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What is a 1200-baud line?

- a) a number found in a Seto phonebooth
- b) a con-man's routine
- c) a computer connection

Read

THE CUCKOO'S EGG

by Clifford Stoll

THE BODLEY HEAD £12.95

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Biological is the perfect powder for all Miele washing machines.

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ANYTHING ELSE IS A COMPROMISE

TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Stephanie BillenTracking
down a
mother

Peter Waymark

● Demonstrating once again its ability to persuade people to share their most intimate moments with the television camera, 40 Minutes (BBC2, 9.30pm) presents the story of a daughter's search for the parents (white mother, black father) she has not seen since she was a baby. In the case of Tracey Harrison, that is nearly 27 years. She was fostered by a white couple, became part of an extraordinary family of 13 children, most of them adopted or fostered, went to university and became a probation officer. Harry Weisbloom's sympathetic



Reunion: Tracey Harrison meets her real mother (BBC2, 9.30pm)

film records the detective work (tracking down birth certificates, making telephone calls) and the growing apprehension as Tracey nears her goal. She is warned that such reunions tend to start euphorically and then get difficult. But there is no going back.

● A displaced child is also at the centre of The Kitchen Tote (Channel 4, 9.30pm), an impressive feature film debut by its writer and director, Harry Hook, set in Kenya during the struggle for independence. It is a tragedy of divided loyalty in which a 12-year-old Kenyan boy finds himself caught between his own people, who have murdered his father, and the decent white policeman (Bob Peck) who takes him on as a servant. If the white/black master/servant oppositions are too schematic, and the boy, appealingly played by Edwin Mahinda, a shade cute, Hook compensates with attention to character and does not try to score points.

● The Painter's World (Channel 4, 6.00pm) is a six-part American import which examines how works of art are produced, taking into account the political, economic and cultural context, and how later generations attach value to them. It is an ambitious theme, treated with the seriousness of an Open University broadcast but without the intellectual rigour. The opening programme traces the shift from the private patronage of the Renaissance to the growth of the big museums, such as the Louvre and the Metropolitan in New York.

● Having dealt in generalities last week, The Greeks (Channel 4, 8.00pm) comes down to specifics. Tonight's subject is the political legacy, and in particular the much-defined concept of democracy. Among those joining the debate are Professor George Steiner and Martin Jacques, editor of *Marxism Today*.

BBC1

6.00 Ceefax

6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Mayer. Includes regular news headlines, business reports, sports summaries, regional news, weather, and a look at the morning newspapers with Paul Cullen.

9.00 News and weather followed by Open Air. Viewers comment on yesterday's television programmes.

9.30 Kroy-Kroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical matter.

10.00 News and weather followed by Turnabout (r).

10.25 Children's BBC, introduced by Simon Parkin, begins with Playdays 10.50 Jimbo and the Jet Set (r).

10.55 Five to Eleven. Gary Watson reads from the Gospel of Mark.

11.00 News and weather followed by Open Air. John Hurt talks about his role in last night's drama.

documentary on ITV *Bombing Birmingham?* and the programme's executive producer Ray Fitzwater, producer Leslie Udwin and Ludovic Kennedy discuss how television has been used to highlight criminal injustices.

12.00 News and weather followed by Daytime Live. Magazine series presented by Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Spiers 12.55 Regional news and weather.

1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather.

1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) 1.50 Turnabout. Quick-thinking word game.

2.15 *Prisoner of Second Avenue* (1975) starring Jack Lamm and Anne Bancroft, with a cameo role by Sylvester Stallone. Neil Simon's blacker than usual comedy about an advertising agency clerk and his wife who find that living in New York City is driving them insane. Directed by Melvin Frank.

3.30 Charlie Chalk (r) 4.05 Bananaman 4.10 Jackson. John Sessions with four of his *Stieg's* *Dominic* 4.25 New York Bear Show 4.35 The Really Wild Show. Nature series. (Ceefax)

4.55 Newsround

5.05 Blue Peter includes the results of a birds' good eating guide. (Ceefax)

5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax)

6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather.

6.30 Regional News 7.00 Top of the Pops introduced by Nicky Campbell

7.30 Eastenders. Another play of the Albert Square marathon. (Ceefax)

8.00 Tomorrow's World includes news on how the Japanese are developing a system to divert the eruptions of their country's Mount Sakurajima, one of the world's most violent volcanoes. Plus a report on the owner of a small pottery firm who has devised a way of coping with the increasing demand for short design runs.

8.30 Brush Strokes. The last in the comedy series starring Karl Howman as an eccentric painter and decorator. (Ceefax)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Regional news and weather.

9.30 Follow Your Nose: Money Well Spent. Victoria Wood is in Ethiopia to see the charity projects made possible by last year's Comic Relief Red Nose day appeal. (Ceefax)

9.45 Birds of a Feather. Early report of Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran's earthy and well-received comedy series. Pauline Currie and Linda Robson play sister Sharon and Tracey, learning to cope with the ups and downs of their chaotic and messy lifestyles and habits, when they discover that both their husbands are spending their next 12 months in the prison system. (Ceefax)

10.15 Question Time. Joining Peter Sissons at Middlesbrough Town Hall are Liberal Democrat MP, Alan Bell; Virginia Bottomley, Minister for Health; the Rt Revd Dr R. D. C. Bishop of Durham; and Gavin Laird, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union.

11.15 Cagney and Lacey. Chris and Mary Beth find themselves racing against a notorious wilder gunner in a search for a wanted criminal who has jumped bail (r) 12.00 Weather

12.05am Ramadan: A Month To Remember. In the first of four programmes Imam B. D. Muradadeen explores how the spirit of Ramadan influences Muslims at work. Ends at 12.20

ITV/LONDON

6.00 TV-am begins with News and about 100 British presented by Linda Mitchell and Lorraine Kelly. After Mike Morris and Lorraine Kelly. After Nine includes guest Claire Rye with more advice on viewers' emotional problems.

9.25 The Pyramid Game. Steve Jones presents the fast-moving quiz game.

10.00 The Time... The Place... Mike Scott hosts another live discussion on an issue that is making the news.

10.40 This Morning. Magazine series presented by Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes Not Born Yesterday, a magazine for the older generation, and Whyday, which has advice on teaching children to read and write. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather.

12.10 The Riddlers. Puppet series for the young 12.30 Home and Away 1.00 News at One with John Suchet.

1.30 Wish You Were Here... With reports from Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and the former Germanys (r). (Ceefax) 2.00 A Century Practice. Outback medical drama.

3.00 Soaps Like Music. Bobby Crush quizzes three more contestants on their knowledge of stage and screen music.

3.25 Thames News and weather 3.30 Sons and Daughters. Angst - Antipodean style.

4.00 Top of the Pops. The Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin 4.40 Press Gang. Junior reporters search for a story series. (Ceefax)

5.10 Blackadder. Bob Holness presents another round of the general knowledge quiz for teenagers.

5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong. Weather.

6.00 Home and Away (r) 6.25 Thames News and weather 6.50 Thames Help joins the Wilson family at a local Menap meeting.

7.00 News at Six. A studio set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Ceefax)

7.30 Science Fiction: Creatures from the Shale. Harvard Professor Stephen Jay Gould narrates the story of the 550 million-year-old Burgess Shale in Canada at the beginning of this century.

8.00 The Bill: Beggars and Choosers. The best police series currently on television. Continues to set an exacting standard (Ceefax)

8.30 This Week: What's Up Doc? A report on what will benefit from the Government's radical reforms for the National Health Service.

9.00 The 100. A series of short stories about the lives of the 100 most powerful people in the world. (Ceefax)

9.30 The 100. A series of short stories about the lives of the 100 most powerful people in the world. (Ceefax)

10.00 News at Ten with Sandy Gall and Trevor McDonald. Weather 10.30 Thames News and weather

10.35 The City Programme investigates the reasons why the stock market crashed in 1987 and the impact of the 1980s on the economy.

11.05 01-For London. A critical guide to the capital's landmarks. Followed by Crimewatch.

11.40 Prisoner: Call Back II. More Oz angst, this time set in a woman's detention centre.

12.30am Contacts. Television's equivalent of a column presented by Josephine Buchanan and Trevor Ward

1.00 Superstars of Wrestling. More sweating and straining from the other side of the Atlantic. Followed by News headlines.

2.00 Film: Up to the Mountains (1987). Dated slice of 1980s realism based on the novel by Neil Dunn about a teenager (Suzy Kendall) from an affluent background who sticks to live with the disadvantaged in working-class Battersea. With Dennis Waterman and Maureen Lipman. Directed by Peter Collinson. Followed by News headlines.

4.25 America's Top Ten presented by Casey Kasam

5.10 ITN Morning News with Richard Bath. Ends at 6.00

BBC2

6.45 Open University: Social Science - Computers and Coal. Ends at 7.10

8.00 News 8.15 Westminster 8.20

9.20 Daytime on Two includes 10.20 Faith and belief 11.00 A history of kitchen technology 11.40 Sex education 12.25 Alternative routes into employment 1.25 Animal Fair

2.00 News and weather followed by Watch (r) 2.15 Wedding at Eastenders (Ceefax)

3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live 3.30 News, regional news and weather

4.00 The Spike Jones Show (b/w). The guests are Libera and his brother George

4.30 Plunkett. Liza Goddard selects her favourite clips from the BBC's television and film archives

5.00 Impressions. A portrait of Yorkshire miller George Leach (r) Horizon: Cold Fusion (r). (Ceefax)

5.30 Film: The Man of La Mancha (b/w) starring Ronald Shiner. A musical nautical farce, based on the radio series, about the men serving on a once-forgotten naval base now threatened with closure. Directed by Gordon Perry

7.20 Young Musician of the Year 1990. The singing semina

8.00 Verbal Judo. A delightful episode from the corridors of power comedy series (r)

8.30 Nature. Michael Buerk examines the 'Deep Groceries', a group of people who are campaigning for drastic changes to be made in the values of Western society in order to avert an environmental crisis

9.00 French Saunderson. Comedy changeovers Dawn and Jennifer channels from rappers to bikers, and present their own version of The Redhead

9.30 40 Minutes: Tracey's Search. (Ceefax) (see Choice)

10.10 Small Objects of Desire. The hamburger

10.30 News and weather 11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine 11.55 Weekend

12.00 Open University: Weekend Update 12.55am Disease and maintenance. Rio de Janeiro. Ends at 12.35

BBC1 WALLS: 6.30pm-7.00pm Wales Today 7.10-7.30 Wales Today 7.30-7.45 Wales Today 7.45-8.00 Wales Today 8.00-8.15 Wales Today 8.15-8.30 Wales Today 8.30-8.45 Wales Today 8.45-9.00 Wales Today 9.00-9.15 Wales Today 9.15-9.30 Wales Today 9.30-9.45 Wales Today 9.45-10.00 Wales Today 10.00-10.15 Wales Today 10.15-10.30 Wales Today 10.30-10.45 Wales Today 10.45-11.00 Wales Today 11.00-11.15 Wales Today 11.15-11.30 Wales Today 11.30-11.45 Wales Today 11.45-12.00 Wales Today 12.00-12.15 Wales Today 12.15-12.30 Wales Today 12.30-12.45 Wales Today 12.45-1.00 Wales Today 1.00-1.15 Wales Today 1.15-1.30 Wales Today 1.30-1.45 Wales Today 1.45-2.00 Wales Today 2.00-2.15 Wales Today 2.15-2.30 Wales Today 2.30-2.45 Wales Today 2.45-3.00 Wales Today 3.00-3.15 Wales Today 3.15-3.30 Wales Today 3.30-3.45 Wales Today 3.45-4.00 Wales Today 4.00-4.15 Wales Today 4.15-4.30 Wales Today 4.30-4.45 Wales Today 4.45-5.00 Wales Today 5.00-5.15 Wales Today 5.15-5.30 Wales Today 5.30-5.45 Wales Today 5.45-6.00 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3.00-3.15 Wales Today 3.15-3.30 Wales Today 3.30-3.45 Wales Today 3.45-4.00 Wales Today 4.00-4.15 Wales Today 4.15-4.30 Wales Today 4.30-4.45 Wales Today 4.45-5.00 Wales Today 5.00-5.15 Wales Today 5.15-5.30 Wales Today 5.30-5.45 Wales Today 5.45-6.00 Wales Today 6.00-6.15 Wales Today 6.15-6.30 Wales Today 6.30-6.45 Wales Today 6.45-7.00 Wales Today 7.00-7.15 Wales Today 7.15-7.30 Wales Today 7.30-7.45 Wales Today 7.45-8.00 Wales Today 8.00-8.15 Wales Today 8.15-8.30 Wales Today 8.30-8.45 Wales Today 8.45-9.00 Wales Today 9.00-9.15 Wales Today 9.15-9.30 Wales Today 9.30-9.45 Wales Today 9.45-10.00 Wales Today 10.00-10.15 Wales Today 10.15-10.30 Wales Today 10.30-10.45 Wales Today 10.45-11.00 Wales Today 11.00-11.15 Wales Today 11.15-11.30 Wales Today 11.30-11.45 Wales Today 11.45-12.00 Wales Today 12.00-12.15 Wales Today 12.15-12.30 Wales Today 12.30-12.45 Wales Today 12.45-1.00 Wales Today 1.00-1.15 Wales Today 1.15-1.30 Wales Today 1.30-1.45 Wales Today 1.45-2.00 Wales Today 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9.30-9.45 Wales Today 9.45-10.00 Wales Today 10.00-10.15 Wales Today 10.15-10.30 Wales Today 10.30-10.45 Wales Today 10.45-11.00 Wales Today 11.00-11.15 Wales Today 11.15-11.30 Wales Today 11.30-11.45 Wales Today 11.45-12.00 Wales Today 12.00-12.15 Wales Today 12.15-12.30 Wales Today 12.30-12.45 Wales Today 12.45-1.00 Wales Today 1.00-1.15 Wales Today 1.15-1.30 Wales Today 1.30-1.45 Wales Today 1.45-2.00 Wales Today 2.00-2.15 Wales Today 2.15-2.30 Wales Today 2.30-2.45 Wales Today 2.45-3.00 Wales Today 3.00-3.15 Wales Today 3.15-3.30 Wales Today 3.30-3.45 Wales Today 3.45-4.00 Wales Today 4.00-4.15 Wales Today 4.15-4.30 Wales Today 4.30-4.45 Wales Today 4.45-5.00 Wales Today 5.00-5.15 Wales Today 5.15-5.30 Wales Today 5.30-5.45 Wales Today 5.45-6.00 Wales Today 6.00-6.15 Wales Today 6.15-6.30 Wales Today 6.30-6.45 Wales Today 6.45-7.00 Wales Today 7.00-7.15 Wales Today 7.15-7.30 Wales Today 7.30-7.45 Wales Today 7.45-8.00 Wales Today 8.00-8.15 Wales Today 8.15-8.30 Wales Today 8.30-8.45 Wales Today 8.45-9.00 Wales Today 9.00-9.15 Wales Today 9.15-9.30 Wales Today 9.30-9.45 Wales Today 9.45-10.00 Wales Today 10.00-10.15 Wales Today 10.15-10.30 Wales Today 10.30-10.45 Wales Today 10.45-11.00 Wales Today 11.00-11.15 Wales Today 11.15-11.30 Wales Today 11.30-11.45 Wales Today 11.45-12.00 Wales Today 12.00-12.15 Wales Today 12.15-12.30 Wales Today

French discuss full role in Nato

From Susan MacDonald
Paris

MR DOUGLAS Hurd, in Paris to meet his French counterpart, M Roland Dumas, said yesterday that Britain wants full French participation in the new North Atlantic Treaty Organization that will emerge from discussions now taking place.

The Foreign Secretary said he was not prepared to discuss Franco-British talks on Nato, but he said as policy ideas for the remodeled alliance were agreed it would be wise to aim for the "full participation" of all members of Nato, including France.

France remains a member of Nato, although General de Gaulle withdrew from the military wing in 1966.

President Mitterrand agreed in a television interview on Sunday that the form and content of Nato were to be profoundly modified. He added that while remaining allies of the United States, the European axis must be better defined, and in this the Germans would play their part.

Mr Hurd underlined the joint role of Britain and France in pressing for the creation of a framework — including the "two plus four" and European Commission talks — on German reunification. "We were worried about this essential framework before it was put in place, but we are not worried now," Mr Hurd said.

Britain and France were also co-operating closely on the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Mr Hurd said Mrs Thatcher would be putting forward "quite substantial proposals" in a speech at a dinner for Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, in Cambridge tonight to mark the 40th anniversary of the Königswinter conference.

Mr John Weston, Britain's representative at the "two plus four" talks, is in Moscow preparing for Mr Hurd's visit in 10 days' time.

Treaty commitments could oblige Britain and other Nato allies to provide military assistance to East Germany after reunification, even with Soviet troops still stationed there, Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Defence, warned yesterday (Michael Evans writes).

Questioned by the Commons Defence Committee about the future of the British Army of the Rhine, Mr King declined to be drawn on the "options for change" being examined by the Ministry of Defence. But he agreed that the commitment was being reviewed. There was a possibility of "thinning" out forces in Germany and holding more in reserve in Britain.

Balloon rises on a wing and a prayer

DONALD MCNEELANCE



A 90 ft hot-air balloon shaped like a power station cooling tower taking off in the shadow of St Paul's Cathedral yesterday to mark National Power's becoming a limited company from midnight tomorrow. It was given a flying start with a blessing from the Very Rev Eric Evans, Dean of St Paul's

Thatcher urges restraint over Lithuania

Continued from page 1

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While she would instinctively be on the side of David against Goliath the Prime Minister is said to believe that publicly rehearsing purist

views about Lithuania's situation in relation to the Soviet Union will not help her people win true independence.

The tacit advice to the Lithuanians is to take it steadily if they want to get all the way down the road.

Mrs Thatcher, who sees Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany in Britain today and tomorrow, will fly to Bermuda for talks with President Bush on Good Friday.

She will brief them both on the details of her conversation with Mr Gorbachev and will continue to insist that the West does nothing in the present crisis which would add to the risk of destabilizing him.

After hearing the Soviet leader's explanation, Mrs Thatcher is understood not to have asked him for any specific undertakings.

The Prime Minister will be visiting Russia in June for a

trade fair in Kiev and will meet Mr Gorbachev then.

MOSCOW: The Kremlin is reported to have agreed not to punish Lithuanian conscripts who deserted from their units after the republic's declaration of independence (Mary Dejevsky writes).

The decision was relayed by Mr Meyers Laurinkus, the chairman of a Lithuanian parliamentary commission, and came amid signs that both sides were interested in calming the atmosphere.

Soviet television reported last night that the pace of legislation by the new Lithuanian government was slowing and that the decision to create a defence ministry had been postponed. Instead, a parliamentary commission had been set up to look into the possibility of establishing Lithuania as a demilitarized region.

The decision not to punish deserters, if they returned to

their units, followed an appeal by the Lithuanian President, Professor Vytautas Landsbergis, who accused Moscow of having "kidnapped" young Lithuanians.

More than 20 deserters were recaptured in a night-time raid by paratroopers on a hospital outside the capital, Vilnius. One Lithuanian policeman was reported injured in the raid, which took place in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

The desertion of more than 1,500 Lithuanian conscripts has become central to the dispute between the Soviet and Lithuanian authorities.

Although tension appeared to lessen yesterday, there was a report that the Lithuanian government had ordered more than 100 volunteers to guard the entrances to the parliament building and the radio and television station in an attempt to prevent any takeover of the buildings.

The effect of events in Lithuania is already making itself felt outside the Baltic. The government in the Ukraine has announced a ban on all pro-Lithuanian demonstrations after the unofficial nationalist organization, Rukh, called for rallies in support of Lithuania to be held on Saturday. Pro-Lithuanian sentiment is strong in the western Ukraine, centred on the city of Lvov, which has long been a centre of separatist feeling.

The Communist Party in Belorussia also issued a hostile statement calling on Lithuanians to respect the integrity of the Soviet Union. In Moscow, however, more than 70 members of the newly elected Moscow City Council signed a letter of support for Lithuanian independence. The council deputies are members of the Bloc for Democratic Russia, which is allied to the reformist inter-regional group of parliamentary deputies.

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Political sketch

Wanting monies with menace

Scottish Questions yesterday started with a little short of 50 MPs present on the Opposition side. At 2.36 pm, I listed the Government Members present. Excluding ministers and whips, I located within the Chamber slightly more than one per cent of the non-Scots Tories, and a hefty 16 per cent of Scottish Conservatives. That is to say three English Tories, two Welshmen, and one Scot.

By the end, nearly half the Government's Scots backbenchers were present as two more had turned up.

It quickly became clear that in arriving the day before dressed in a scarlet tunic, Sylvia Heal, Labour's victor at Mid Staffordshire, was a day too early. For if anyone at all is capable of pleasing the Scots in their present mood, it could only be Father Christmas.

Jimmy Hood (Lab, Clydesdale), wanted more money for the Strathclyde police. The Liberals' Menzies Campbell, Labour's Bob Hughes and the Tories' Alick Buchanan-Smith all wanted more for the Scottish fishing industry. When junior minister Lord James Douglas-Hamilton announced a big increase in funds for housing (£46 million) he was besieged by shouts of "not enough!"

"521,000 homes" apparently "suffer from dampness". Not to remedy this with government money, said Dundee's John McAllion, showed "an obscene order of priorities". Labour's spokesman, John Maxton, was restrained: the minister would be "blindly complacent" if he did not provide "a massive amount of money".

In vain did ministers protest that more is spent per head in Scotland than in England. When Sir David Steel complained that cash injections enjoyed by the English water companies (prior to privatization) had not been available to their state-run Scottish equivalents, and Scottish Secretary Malcolm Rifkind replied that the average water bill in England was £55.12 whereas in Scotland it was £40.62, nobody seemed to care. Within minutes, Buchanan-Smith was on his feet again, calling for more for the Midlothian region.

"Number twelve, Sir."

With mayhem all around, Mr Lang sustains an air of courteous and level-headed intelligence. He glanced, now — sorrowfully, I thought — at the nuts and deadheads on his own side, and the baying hordes opposite.

"Or perhaps," he said, "Lead Kindly Light, and the encircling glow" might be more appropriate.

Matthew Parris

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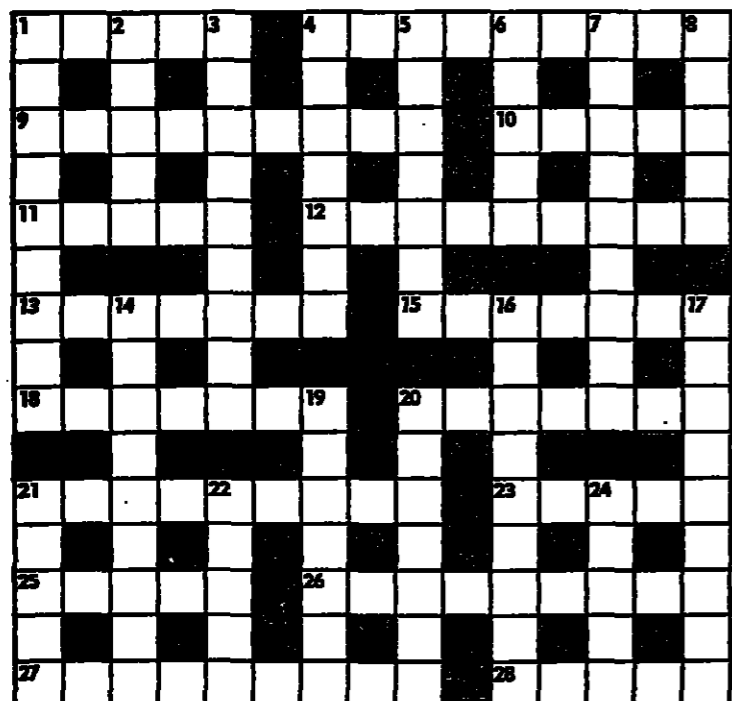
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THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,254



- ACROSS**
- 1 Dog in a chase outside (5).
 - 4 Stable receives the genuine article — a hot tip (4-5).
 - 9 Devalue record (5,4).
 - 10 This part of a flower perishes first — and others follow (5).
 - 11 Unsociable vehicle? (5).
 - 12 Embracing novices, nun lays out cake she made (5,4).
 - 13 Stim centre in round pane of glass (7).
 - 15 Beef is better than fish (7).
 - 16 Evidence of damage — changing ends makes it wilder (7).
 - 20 Start to buy pineapple and other fruit (7).
 - 21 Adolescent Butterfly has lyrics changed (9).
 - 23 Jog naked round garden at first (5).
 - 25 Fruit all dead? (5).
 - 26 Seizure may be cause of death (9).
- DOWN**
- 1 Architect has a worse cough, might some say? (9).
 - 2 Woman, no maiden, but an angel (5).
 - 3 Applying colour to fabric, ruined one tiny edge (3-6).
 - 4 Flirting pays — here's an explanation (7).
 - 5 Butterfly makes a curly spiral (7).
 - 6 Ask for something fruity? (5).
 - 7 To do with the legend of Sullivans? (9).
 - 8 Race didn't finish by an Italian city (5).
 - 14 Driver asked flaky puff (9).
 - 16 Endlessly narrow-minded after prison in America — in Florida, say (9).
 - 17 Laurence captivated by feature possibly Japanese (9).
 - 19 Projecting fortification entails reorganisation (7).
 - 20 Best men are not wearing tails — they'd get dirty (7).
 - 21 Illness of king imprisoned by revolution (5).
 - 22 Handel noted her arrival in parts be banned (5).
 - 24 Aboard the Beagle, say, there's sophisticated activity (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,253

COMEDIAN, MASCER
A I E C A O R E
M A S I O N P U L L O F F
U T I U T S I R
S P R I G M U S C O V I T E
A R U E
S O L A L L E M O R P H
E T A F A L M A R
C O N G E N I T A L M A R
T O O S M O
A M B E R G I N A A R R A S
R L O O U I P A
I G L A N D R A S C H E L
A E C O S I T I L
N O T I C E S E N T I A R Y

Concise Crossword, page 22

WEATHER

Some cloud over southern Britain and northern Scotland but bright spells will develop. More overcast over southern Scotland and northern England with outbreaks of light rain in the morning. Central England and Wales will become more cloudy in the afternoon, but it should stay dry. A little cooler than yesterday in south but warmer in north. Outlook: generally dry with sunny periods.

ABROAD

MONDAY: 1=thunder; 2=drizzle; 3=fog; 4=snow; 5=rain; 6=cloud; 7=clear; 8=partly cloudy; 9=partly sunny; 10=partly overcast; 11=partly misty; 12=partly hazy; 13=partly foggy; 14=partly drizzly; 15=partly rainy; 16=partly stormy; 17=partly severe; 18=partly extreme; 19=partly very severe; 20=partly very extreme; 21=partly very severe; 22=partly very extreme; 23=partly very severe; 24=partly very extreme; 25=partly very severe; 26=partly very extreme; 27=partly very severe; 28=partly very extreme; 29=partly very severe; 30=partly very extreme; 31=partly very severe; 32=partly very extreme; 33=partly very severe; 34=partly very extreme; 35=partly very severe; 36=partly very extreme; 37=partly very severe; 38=partly very extreme; 39=partly very severe; 40=partly very extreme; 41=partly very severe; 42=partly very extreme; 43=partly very severe; 44=partly very extreme; 45=partly very severe; 46=partly very extreme; 47=partly very severe; 48=partly very extreme; 49=partly very severe; 50=partly very extreme; 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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

H&C acquires Pfizer Pigments for \$65m

HARRISONS & Crosfield is buying Pfizer Pigments Inc, the largest producer of iron oxides in North America, from Pfizer Inc for \$65 million (£40 million) in cash. In 1989, PPI had a turnover of \$112 million and operating profits of \$8 million.

Mr Peter Savage, managing director of Harrocs Chemical, H&C's chemical division and the leading European producer of iron oxides, said: "We see considerable benefits arising in both companies from this acquisition. It takes the group's iron oxide business into North America and brings into the group the best technology in the world." A series of disposals by H&C as part of its move out of plantations and commodity trading should raise about £40 million.

Senior rises to £17.4m

SENIOR Engineering improved pre-tax profits to £17.4 million during 1989, up from £13.6 million in 1988, and proposes a final dividend of 1.78p, making 2.86p (2.6p) for the year on earnings per share of 6.86p (6.04p). Profits from the construction service division advanced 147 per cent to £4.2 million.

Frogmore up to £20m

FROGMORE Estates' policy of taking investment property sale profits above the line means that its roller-coaster profits record continues. In the six months to December the company made pre-tax profits of £27 million, against £23.6 million in 1987. The interim dividend is 2.9p (2.6p).

Expansion at Siebe

SIEBE, the controls company, has expanded via the acquisition of Productos De Control Corox, a Regulation Y Control (Re-Con) and Univam for \$12.1 million in cash.

Corox, which designs and manufactures a range of control devices for the industrial and domestic appliance industry, has been purchased from Electrolux of Stockholm. Re-Con, of Madrid, is a leading supplier of controls to the Spanish industrial liquid petroleum and automotive markets. Univam is a leading manufacturer and supplier of butterfly valves to the industrial process and chemical industries throughout Europe. The company also manufactures check valves, ball valves and specialty control valves. This acquisition is subject to West German government approval.

Hogg Group ahead 30%

PRE-TAX profits at Hogg Group, the insurance company formerly called Hogg Robinson & Gardner Mountain, increased by 30 per cent to £13.6 million during 1989 despite greater competition in the London insurance market. The final dividend of 4.5p, up from 4p, makes 7.25p, an increase of 12 per cent.

Revaluation lifts Clayform

A HIGHER than expected revaluation of its property assets lifted shares in the property company Clayform 16p to 20p. Net assets per share increased 32 per cent to 410p, 50p ahead of expectations. In the year to December, pre-tax profits rose to £18 million (£17.4 million). The dividend rises by 5 per cent to 10p.

Waterford bid cleared

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission has given Mr Tony O'Reilly, the chairman of HJ Heinz, the green light to rescue Waterford Wedgwood, the ailing crystal and china business. Mr O'Reilly plans an £87.5 million (£75.7 million) capital injection in return for a 29.9 per cent stake to be held jointly by Fitzwilliam, his private holding company, and the Morgan Stanley Leveraged Equity Fund.

At separate extraordinary meetings, shareholders of both Fitzwilliam and Waterford Wedgwood also approved the deal, which includes a one-for-five rights issue at £12.75p to raise £22.8 million. The City had not expected the bid to be referred to the MMC. Waterford Wedgwood shares fell 2p to 38p.

TEMPUS

Barratt keeps a weather eye on California sales

SELLING a house is not easy, as any homeowner attempting to do so will testify. But Barratt Developments has a stock of 350 to sell, which it has taken on under its long-standing part-exchange scheme.

Barratt's stock of second-hand houses is worth about £20 million, representing 8 percentage points of its total gearing of 59 per cent at half time. However, Barratt is not worried about selling them, saying they take about 10-12 weeks to shift.

Given the appalling state of the British housing market, the company is in a relaxed mood. True, interim profits in the six months to December dropped by 26 per cent to £24.1 million, but turnover is up by 12 per cent to £276.9 million and operating profits are only marginally lower. A 63 per cent increase in interest charges spoiled an otherwise creditable performance.

Shareholders are being rewarded for their forbearance with an unchanged dividend of 3.21p a share.

House sales may have fallen by 17 per cent to 2,686, but the rise in regional house prices ensured that turnover increased to £220 million.

But while housebuilding in Britain contributed 72 per cent of operating profit, shareholders would be wise to watch the source of the remaining 28 per cent - California. Last year, Barratt made £9.7 million operating profit.

But this year there are signs of over-supply creeping into the Californian market and there must be concern that a subsequent squeeze on margins could well coincide with still more horror from the British market. Barratt is aware of the potential problem and given the experience of Mr John Swanson, the chairman, should be able to make the appropriate response.

Analysts are looking for full-year pre-tax profits of about £55 million to £60 million, giving earnings per share of 21p. At 183p, the shares are on a price-earnings multiple of 8.6 that favourably reflects its exposure to the still active northern market and the hope of continuing profits from California. Barratt is in good shape but buyers should wait



Relaxed: John Swanson, chairman of Barratt

until more is known about the Californian market.

Hawker

HAWKER Siddeley was created when Harold Macmillan reorganized the aircraft industry at the end of the 1950s, but the former chairman, Sir Arnold Hall, recognized that he would not be left to get on with it.

He shrewdly diversified into the then growth sectors of diesel engines, power-generation equipment and cables. Sure enough, when Hawker's aerospace businesses were nationalized in the 1970s the company escaped well placed to take advantage of the electrification boom in the oil-rich Gulf states.

Since Sir Arnold stepped down in 1986, it has become clear that Hawker's portfolio of businesses needs to be changed again. Earnings per

share have grown at little more than 6 per cent annually over the past five years. Virtually all the reported 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £202 million last year was due to currency movements, acquisitions, a pensions holiday and property gains.

Hawker's current chairman, Sir Peter Baxendale, whose main career was with Shell, and its new chief executive, Dr Alan Watkins, who has been recruited from Lucas, are trying to reorganize the group into new divisions. But their hopes of doubling Hawker's £2.1 billion turnover within five years look a tall order.

Hawker's exposure to defence is minimal - sales to the MoD amounted to only £8 million at the last count - and it took £500 million worth of rail-equipment orders in 1989. Nevertheless, Hawker needs to acquire growth businesses to meet its expansion target

and it will be bidding against a whole raft of companies fleeing the defence sector.

Generously assuming 10 per cent rises in profits to £222 million and in earnings to 68p, the shares at 629p, down 11p, stand on a prospective p/e ratio of 9. Given the task Hawker faces, that is fair.

Bowater

BOWATER Industries has to convince the market that its year-end gearing, at 130.9 per cent compared with 27.4 per cent a year earlier, is but temporary. That asset disposals will bring down gearing to 100 per cent, and that even this level, with a four-times interest cover is acceptable. And that double-digit earnings a share growth, which may pause in 1990, will be resumed in 1991.

The task should not be too difficult, since Bowater has a management accredited with efficiency, which has beaten market expectations with a 1989 pre-tax profit of £100.4 million against £76.7 million - although flattened by £6.9 million of continuing pension benefits. It is paying a final dividend of 10p (8.25p), making 18.5p (15.25p) for the year. Equally important, Bowater has advanced margins on sales at its continuing operations from 7.5 to 8.3 per cent.

After a year in which disposals fetched £141 million and £436 million was spent on acquisitions, of which Norton Opax at £367 million claimed the lion's share, Bowater comes out of 1989 with credits.

So far, the housing gloom has passed Bowater by; margins on building material operations rose from 5.4 to 5.5 per cent. It was a strong year for print and packaging, with margins up from 8.8 to 10.1 per cent. Though the level of interest rates remains the key, 1990 has started reasonably.

Bowater does not see itself in a box over the high gearing level, and is not to be rushed into panic sales. The group also looks poised to push ahead on profits and margins.

Pre-tax profits of £111 million this year put the shares at 479p, up 24p, on a rating of 8.2. If Bowater continues to hold up its head while chill economic winds blow, the shares are not expensive.

Dutch help UB's European drive

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

UNITED Biscuits (UB), market leader in biscuits in Britain and second in Europe after France's BSN, is to increase its continental presence through a cooperation agreement with Verkeade, of the Netherlands, that is expected to lead to acquisition by UB.

An offer price for Verkeade's common stock is expected to be £1400 (£129) per share, which would value the group at £86 million.

Verkeade has been given an undertaking that it will maintain its separate identity within the UB group and continue operations under its own name.

Ortiz, UB's Spanish snacks operation, had sales of £24 million last year, while UB's exports to the Continent were worth about £30 million. Verkeade will add another £80 million to turnover.

Mr Robert Clarke, group

chief executive of UB, said: "Verkeade's brand franchise and market position in the Netherlands represent a major strategic opportunity for us to expand our operations in continental Europe."

BSN has about 20 per cent of the European biscuits market, followed by UB at about 12 per cent before adding in Verkeade, which should push up the share about one full percentage point.

Mr Brian Chadbourne, managing director of UB's McVitie's group, said UB had "serious ambitions" as far as increasing its European market share was concerned.

A Asked if UB, whose Westminster crisps group holds a leading position in Belgium, is planning further continental acquisitions, he added: "We have been looking long and hard at European links. There are other irons in the fire."

Bid for Lancaster

From Lala Ya, Hong Kong

SHARES in Lancaster jumped 31p to 174p in London on the news that the Jardine Matheson group, the controlling shareholder, plans to buy the minority in a £31.6 million deal.

Zung Fu, Jardine Matheson's Hong Kong subsidiary, wants to acquire Lancaster. Jardines' 60 per cent-owned car distributor in Britain, in a move to streamline the

group's expanding worldwide motor interests, Jardine International Motor Holdings, a Bermudian holding company which will be listed in the colony, will become the parent company for Zung Fu, Lancaster and Zung Fu's Australian motor companies.

Lancaster's shareholders will receive 185p in cash for each ordinary share, with an option for loan notes.

Rank to buy remainder of Film House

THE Rank Organisation, the British leisure group, is buying the outstanding 51 per cent of Film House, the Canadian cinema film processing laboratory, that it did not already own, from Cineplex Odeon for \$40 million.

Rank has held a 49 per cent interest in Film House since January 1989, when it paid Can\$87.6 million (£45.8 million) for the stake.

Rank said the acquisition would enable it to service major film producers for distribution in Canada. Music Corporation of America had agreed to leave its North American film print requirements with Film House.

Why BES needs rush of investors

FAMILY Money on Saturday looks at why Business Expansion Scheme issues are coming on a last-minute rush from investors before the tax year ends next week. With days to

go, many companies are struggling to net the minimum they need to go ahead.

There is also some advice on how to cut the cost of inheritance tax, and we review Britain's first gold investment trust, on offer next week.

THE TIMES
ON SATURDAY
IN COLOUR

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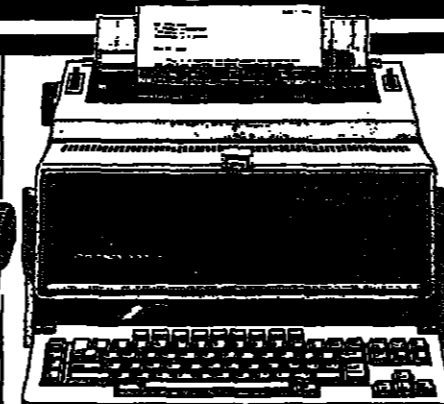
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Leucadia uses 33% stake bought from Brierley as springboard

Molins under US bid threat

By Colin Campbell
MOLINS, the cigarette machine maker which recently saw off Sir Ron Brierley after his second takeover attempt, has received a bid from Leucadia National Corporation of the US which, ironically, has used a 33 per cent Molins holding bought from Sir Ron as its springboard.

Leucadia is offering 252p in cash for each Molins share, valuing Molins at £75.9 million. Leucadia now holds 34.8 per cent.

Molins has rejected the current offer as "totally inadequate and unacceptable."

Sir Ron's September-1989 bid for Molins was eventually raised to 230p a share. In July 1987, Sir Ron had offered 300p a share. Molins shares rose by 5p to 251p yesterday.

Last week, Molins reported 1989 pre-tax profits of £13.9 million (£8.8 million), which exceeded its defence forecast of £13 million, and said it had incurred an extraordinary charge of £1.1 million in fighting off Sir Ron's second bid attempt.

Mr Neil Clarke, the Molins chairman, said the group could better use its money for developing its business rather than fighting off bids.

Mr Clarke said: "We were given to understand after the second defeat that Sir Ron was a serious and supportive investor, and was a holder of his stake for the long term. Some long term."

Leucadia, quoted on the New York and Pacific stock exchanges, took over Cambrian General Securities, the former Ivan Boesky vehicle, last year. It has asked for discussions with Molins's board in the hope of securing a recommendation.

The Times understands the request for a meeting with directors was denied.

Leucadia's interests include manufacturing businesses and financial services. Through its 66 per cent stake in PHL-CORP, it is also engaged in trading stamps.

Mr Clarke said that despite two takeover attempts, Molins was not battle-weary, and added he would be writing to shareholders after the dispatch of formal offer documents.

In the meantime, shareholders are urged to take no action in respect of the offer, Molins said.

Leucadia said its bid is conditional only on compliance with US regulatory requirements.

Although London's Takeover Code would oblige Leucadia to make an offer for all of Molins — because by acquiring Sir Ron's stake, it held more than the 30 per cent allowed — it had decided to reduce the period of uncertainty and make a voluntary offer for all outstanding Molins shares "as soon as possible."

Costs trim advance at Weir
A BRISK 37 per cent rise in trading profits to £18.4 million at Weir Group, the Glasgow heavy pump and valve maker, was partly offset by higher pension costs and a reduction in the contribution from associates and interest income.

This trimmed the rise in pre-tax profit to £22.4 million, an increase of 17 per cent, in the year to December. Sales were 36 per cent up at £232 million. A final dividend up 0.75p to 5.5p will leave the total 1p higher at 8p. Excluding exceptional items, earnings per share were 9 pence ahead at 29.3p.

Horne halted
Robert Horne requested a suspension of dealings in its shares, pending an announcement. Buhmann Tetterode of Holland confirmed last week that it is in talks with Horne's largest shareholder which has 51.3 per cent.

Plan attacked
Mr Andrew Hugh Smith, chairman of the International Stock Exchange, condemned the French proposal for a single European list of 300 EC stocks as "conceptually flawed" at a Frankfurt seminar.

Grampian up
Grampian Holdings raised pre-tax profits 16 per cent to £12.1 million in 1989. The total dividend rises to 4.3p (3.67p) on eps of 13.66p (12.35p). Sales were £120.5 million (£108.7 million).

Lerose dips
House of Lerose saw pre-tax profits slip from £1.21 million to £1.07 million in 1989. The total dividend is 10.3p (10p) on eps of 14.7p (14.2p).

Stag leaps to £2.39m



Reflecting on high standards: Patrick Radford, at Stag's Nottingham showroom

COST controls and more efficient manufacturing techniques helped Stag Furniture Holdings, the cabinet furniture maker, lift pre-tax profits by 12.7 per cent to £2.39 million in the year to end-December, on turnover up 4 per cent to £41 million (Philip Pangalos writes).

Earnings per share rose 16

per cent to 17.8p and the final dividend rises to 4.75p (4.25p), making 7.5p (6.75p) for the year.

Mr Patrick Radford, the chairman, said the results were achieved by a combination of high standards and improved manufacturing efficiency. However, he expects 1990 to be a difficult year.

There is an extraordinary charge of £527,000 relating to the January closure of the group's factory in Leichward, Hertfordshire, which resulted in the loss of 285 jobs.

Mr Alan Parkes, the finance director, will resign from the board this week to take up a position elsewhere.

The shares rose 4p to 101p.

Sun Life in French link-up as profits rise

By Neil Bennett

SUN Life Assurance is planning to join up with Union des Assurances de Paris, France's largest insurance group, to launch unit-linked savings policies in southern Europe.

The company has been discussing the introduction of unit-linked products, almost unknown in Spain or Italy, and may make a move this year. UAP is an 18 per cent shareholder in Sun Life after an equity swap in 1988 and M Jean Peyrelevalde, its chairman, sits on Sun Life's board.

Sun Life's plans were revealed by Mr John Reeve, the managing director, as he presented the life assurer's figures for 1989. Net profits rose 20 per cent to £28.3 million, while the final dividend is 30.3p, making a total of 44.1p, up 14 per cent.

Mr Reeve said the dividend was being increased at a slower rate this year to increase Sun Life's reserves, which will be used to expand the asset management and marketing operations. Retained profits rose from £6.3 million to £8.4 million.

This has been done with the full support of UAP and Transatlantic, Sun Life's 28.4 per cent shareholder, which has four directors on the board.

The life assurance division increased net profits by 13 per cent to £19.5 million. The company increased the proportion it took of its distributed surplus from 9 to 9½ per cent, and will take 10 per cent this year to boost profits and cash flow. Funds under management rose by 27 per cent to £3.5 billion in the year.

The unit-linked business made £8.8 million, up 38 per cent. During the year, Sun Life increased the number of agents in its unit-linked sales subsidiary from 500 to 750 and opened 12 more branches.

The company's five-year-old unit trust subsidiary lost £800,000, down from a deficit of £1.2 million in 1988. The trusts have £350 million under management, and Mr Reeve said that although expenses were reduced last year, the company needed to increase sales to operate profitably.

A new accounting policy has resulted in an exceptional write-off of about £500,000 R&D expenditure which had been capitalised as an asset. The company has also reported the 1988 results. It had reported a loss of £194,000, but the new board said the loss was actually £312,000.

The group, which is not paying a dividend, is raising

COMMENT

Dixons dilemma that hangs over Kingfisher

Other retailers may be waiting for the upturn in consumer spending but Kingfisher's chairman, Mr Geoffrey Mulcahy, does not believe it is coming. He believes the retail sector is facing more than just a temporary cyclical downturn and the boom time of the mid-1980s should be seen as a blip in the sector's history. If this unfashionable view is correct, retailers taking a cautious approach should be rewarded.

The market certainly rewarded Kingfisher, with a 9p jump in the share price after yesterday's results, but Mr Mulcahy's cautious view of the future coupled with the results from his electrical retailer, Comet, cast some doubts on the wisdom of progressing with the £568 million bid for Dixons, assuming it is cleared by the Monopolies Commission.

Comet's profits fell 30 per cent from £25.5 million to £17.9 million on sales of £519 million, up from £487 million. On a like-for-like basis sales have fallen just under 5 per cent and the pure electrical retailing profit from Comet has fallen from over £12.8 million to nearer £7.8 million. The rest is made up of financial services, extended warranties and the £900,000 pension holiday.

If, as Mr Mulcahy believes, there is little sign of an upturn in retailing generally and in electrical retailing in particular and little sign of interest rates falling this year, pursuing the £570 million bid at present may not make shareholders happy.

Kingfisher appeared to rush into the bid for Dixons in December and then seemed surprised at the hostile reaction from the City and the strength of Dixons share price. The MMC referral has given the group time to consider the move. If the bid is cleared Kingfisher has 28 days to make a decision. If it decides not to bid, it is banned from doing so for a year.

Mr Mulcahy's problem may be how to walk away from the bid for a year and retain his credibility, having spent £5.8 million on the bid so far. But if he manages to do so and ultimately gets Dixons for the price he wants, or less, he will have achieved a tremendous coup.

The role of the Bank

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, seems to be coming out of his corner a little on the subject of greater independence for the Bank. Giving evidence to the Treasury Select Committee, he left no one in any doubt that he thought monetary policy would be better conducted if it were left more to the Bank rather than numbers 11 and 10 Downing Street.

Needless to say, being the polite fellow he is, the Governor did not rough anyone up. There was no question, he said, of the Bank wanting to usurp the

sovereignty of Parliament. It was up to Parliament to invest suitable powers in the Bank if it so chose and what Parliament gave Parliament could take away. The question was simply: would the right decisions be taken more often if any disagreements between the central bank and Government over monetary policy became public rather than being hidden away behind closed doors as they were at present? There can be little doubt that the bias of decision-making would shift strongly in favour of the conservative instincts of the central bank if the penalty of resisting the bank's advice was to be exposed to the nervousness of markets.

To some extent, the question of what kind of central bank has switched from the domestic context to the European one. Economic and monetary union in the EC — to be discussed again at the weekend by the EC finance council at Ashford Castle in Ireland — will inevitably divert responsibility to an EC-wide body of which national central banks will be the agents. But the nature of the central banks in the system will need a measure of agreement and the pressure is for more independence than the Bank of England enjoys.

Contract killings

Mr John Spalvins and Mr Paul Bobroff, the men behind Markheath Securities, are no angels when it comes to the corporate hurly-burly. They spend as much time on the receiving end of the mud as they do slinging it.

But the point they have raised about the service contracts of the directors of Camford Engineering merits some serious consideration.

Whether or not the annual renewal of these five-year contracts required shareholder approval is something for lawyers to argue about. Indeed, given that Markheath has had a declarable stake in Camford for nearly two years, it is a bit late in the day to start shouting foul.

But there is, however, a growing tendency for public company directors to look at their contracts, particularly when a bid looks likely. The directors of Laing Properties, where Chelsfield had assembled its stake as patiently as Markheath, decided they needed new service contracts just a few weeks before the long-awaited bid was launched.

True, Camford's annual report did point out that two of the company's eight directors had four years of their contracts unexpired. But is that really enough? There was no mention of the fact that they could cash in their contracts and walk out as soon as a predator acquired 30 per cent of the company.

An effective poison pill certainly, but one that shareholders ultimately have to pay for. There is a case for full service contracts appearing in the annual reports.

Telecomputing write-off

By Melinda Wittstock

TELECOMPUTING, the USM-quoted computer software group, which has fallen into a £777,000 pre-tax loss for the year to end-September, has confirmed that interim profits were overstated by the former management.

A new accounting policy

has resulted in an exceptional write-off of about £500,000 R&D expenditure which had been capitalised as an asset. The company has also reported the 1988 results. It had reported a loss of £194,000, but the new board said the loss was actually £312,000.

The group, which is not

paying a dividend, is raising approximately £500,000 net from the placement of 1.59 million ordinary shares at 37p. Turnover for the year was down from £3.11 million to £2.52 million, and the loss per share was increased from 4.31p to 16.47p. The company said it has returned to profit during the second quarter of the current year.

Braham ready to pay 'em

MICHAEL Braham, founder-chief of Broadcast Communications, which is responsible for the House of Commons television coverage and Channel 4's *Business Daily*, has lost none of his ambition since last year's takeover by the Guardian and Manchester Evening News group — which made him a millionaire. Significantly, G-MEN has not compulsorily acquired the outstanding shares held by 1,700 small shareholders, and has retained its Third Market quote. Braham plans to take BC on to the USM when the Third Market is abolished, and wants to use the shares for television acquisitions. Word is that G-MEN would allow its stake of more than 90 per cent to be diluted to 51 per cent, and Hambros Bank and James Capel have now been signed up as financial advisers. The company's interim results, due any day, should be accompanied by news of one acquisition, in television production services, funded from Broadcast's £2.5 million cash reserves. Already, the biggest independent television producer — it has 1,581 hours of Commons coverage alone, against its main rivals' average of 300 hours in total — Broadcast plans to expand into news coverage as well. "We're playing with the big boys," says Braham. "I think there is going to be a major rationalization of the independent TV industry, and it may be well be us that pulls it together."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

'Berlin? No trub guv'

ALTHOUGH 1992 is not yet upon us, the humble London cabbie is now being advised to carry his passport with him at all times — so as to be in a position to take advantage of a new kind of pan-European passenger. The capital's cabbie community is agog after one driver, linked up to Computer Cab, accepted a booking to go to Berlin. "We put the booking out over the airwaves

— for anyone near the Dartford Tunnel and able to nip home to get their passport — and had a driver within minutes," says a Computer Cab source. "It is quite unusual. We've had a booking for Paris before, but never Berlin." The fare would, she said, have been by "negotiation" but would probably have been "in the region of £300." A mile cheaper than four scheduled air fares....

Polished off

THE first Polish state-owned financial institution to be privatized, a small bank with a big name — Bank Inicjatyw Gospodarczych — has been oversubscribed. Private investors sought 22,857 shares when 15,000 were on offer.

After the shares have been sold to the public, the bank's nominal capital will grow to 2.5 billion zlotys from 1 billion. But do not get too excited — 1 billion zlotys equals £65,000.

● FURTHER to the City Diary tale this week about the soft-centred Cadbury's Creme Egg given to Julian Baring by a fund manager at the 1,000th edition party for James Capel's Mining Review, Robert Weinberg, current head of Capel's mining team, reports he, too, was given an egg. "But," he says, "mine was far from mushy inside — it was rock-hard and firm, like all my mining recommendations."

● SNAPPY reply to a question about what had happened to Bunzl's operations in Argentina, from chairman James White the other day. "We decided to pull out some years ago — when the ransom premium became more than the profits we were earning there."

Two plan a double
A CHANCE meeting 18 months ago at a City cocktail party between two well-known investment managers has resulted in a new private client fund management venture. Spurred on by this apparent "meeting of minds", Norman Wilson, aged 59, left Neil Balfour's York Trust on Friday, where he had built up the company's investment portfolio. On the same day, Christopher Foster, aged 40, similarly left Trafalgar House. Foster, one half of the team that built up Chase Property Holdings, which was sold to Trafalgar House for £197 million on Christmas Eve 1987, was most recently the man responsible for turning the pension fund at Trafalgar House into one of the top performers in the City. The duo are now to become directors of Silkham Management, a small Liverpool fund management group, and with the intention of building it up into a much larger concern, they have just opened an office in Turgomorton Street. Silkham has £50 million under management at present and Wilson and Foster want to double this almost immediately, launch a range of unit trusts and seek a Stock Exchange listing. They will, they say, be focusing on their extensive overseas contacts. "We would like to double funds under management by the end of the year — or by the end of the month if we're lucky," says Wilson. "In City terms that's still a comparatively small amount."

Carol Leonard

Notification of changes on disclosure of interests in shares.

Section 134 (1) to (3) of the Companies Act 1989 on the disclosure of interests in shares is scheduled to come into force on 31st May.

Under the current terms of the 1985 Act, persons knowingly acquiring an interest of 5% or more of a public company may have to notify the company of this interest within 5 business days of the acquisition.

The 1989 Act will reduce the level of this notification requirement to 3%, and the notification period to 2 business days.

The new threshold and deadline will apply to existing known interests of between 3% and 5% even if no further acquisition is made.

Please note that Section 134 (4) is not being commenced at this stage, nor are regulations being made under subsections (5) and (6).

For further information, obtain a copy of the commencement order (SI 1990 NO 713) from HMSO and, if necessary, consult your legal adviser.

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Pub group ahead at £16.2m

THE Boddington Group, the 470-strong chain of public houses which sold off its Manchester and Liverpool breweries to Whitbread last September for £53.7 million to pursue opportunities in the leisure sector, lifted 1989 pre-tax profits 9.6 per cent to £16.2 million.

Turnover rose by 32.5 per cent to £127.6 million and on continuing activities was up 41.5 per cent to £112.9 million. Earnings per share rose from 11.6p to 12.2p and a final dividend of 3.25p (2.72p) makes a total of 5.1p (4.3p).

BTG advances 33% to £3.6m

Business Technology Group, the USM office equipment company where Mr Tony Berry, former chairman of Blue Arrow, is a non-executive director and has a 15 per cent stake, lifted pre-tax profits 33 per cent to £3.6 million.

The final dividend rose from 1.75p to 2.5p, making 4.1p. Earnings per share climbed from 15.44p to 16.78p on turnover, boosted by acquisitions, ahead by 40.6 per cent to £40.5 million.

Rockware rise

Rockware Group lifted pre-tax profits from £8.9 million to £10.6 million for 1989, a period which included the purchase of Dartington Crystal and the opening of a metals division. Sales rose to £23.5 million (£18.9 million) and a final dividend of 1.3p makes 2.5p (2.25p) total after earnings of 5.6p (5.5p).

Monument up

Monument Oil and Gas, the USM exploration group which recently acquired Renown Energy for £61.7 million, lifted pre-tax to £6.82 million (£3.05 million) in the year to end-December. Turnover increased from £14.8 million to £26.2 million. Earnings per share rose from 0.85p to 1.17p, but there is no dividend.

Shuwa bid

Shuwa, the Japanese property company, has joined the bidders for Saks of Fifth Avenue, the New York retail chain owned by BAT Industries. Saks is expected to fetch about \$1.2 billion.

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

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Analysts upgrade GrandMet profit hopes on US performance

Plums in Pillsbury's pudding

From Martin Waller
Minneapolis, Minnesota

GRAND Metropolitan is uncovering hidden delicacies within Pillsbury, bought for \$5.75 billion in 1988. Chief among the unconsidered trifles is Häagen-Dazs, the ice-cream and frozen foods operation.

Sales at Häagen-Dazs are planned to rise from \$330 million this year to \$1 billion by 1995, spearheaded by a strong push into Europe, particularly Britain. The company has an outlet at Harrods and a flagship store opening in Leicester Square, London, by May.

There are 12 outlets in West Germany and one in Paris. But the aim is to build the brand into the world leader in the luxury ice-cream and frozen desserts sector.

US market share in the six months to end-March grew from 5.3 to 6.3 per cent, according to Mr Ove Sorensen, the chief operating officer.

The business is hoping to boost European sales to \$300 million, with a rise from \$60 million to \$200 million in Japan.

Growth will come from sales through retailers, such as J Sainsbury. It is testing the market in six London branches, rather than through its own shops.

By 1995, Häagen-Dazs hopes to have 5 per cent of the world ice-cream and frozen



Toughest task lies ahead: Allen Sheppard, the chairman of Grand Metropolitan

desserts market, estimated at a total \$20 billion.

"It's the same curve as Baileys in the 1970s," said Mr Allen Sheppard, GrandMet's chairman. Baileys is one of the world's best selling liqueurs, owned by GrandMet. "If it has the same effect I will be pleased."

London drinks analysts, on a visit to Pillsbury's food operations in the US, are raising their profits estimates for GrandMet. But a minority

worry that Pillsbury, still seen in the City as a mature business, might have difficulty reaching the 15 per cent-a-year profits growth target set by GrandMet for the end of this decade without acquisitions.

Analysts had been looking for about £925 million pre-tax from GrandMet for the year to end-September. Few believed that Pillsbury, although earnings-enhancing immediately, would have any significant effect on those estimates. But

on the basis of figures given in Minneapolis, Pillsbury's headquarters, they raised estimates for 1990-91 by about £25 million to £1,150 million.

Analysts were generally impressed by Pillsbury's news. "They have put some meat on the bones they have already given us," said one.

Pillsbury executives were confident the 15 per cent profit target would be met, and in some cases surpassed, across the group. In particular,

Pillsbury Foods, the core foods and milling division, was expecting 5 per cent volume growth in the second half to end-September, a 9 per cent rise in net sales and an increase of just under 25 per cent in trading profits, according to Mr Paul Walsh, its chief operating officer.

Spending on advertising to boost Pillsbury's two main brands, Green King vegetables and Doughboy flour products, would double to \$70 million in the present year, he said.

Across the group, advertising spending would grow by between 30 and 60 per cent per company to a grand total of \$150 million.

Analysts had been concerned at how GrandMet would act to support the brands after a period of retrenchment and under-spending by the previous owners.

Pillsbury has the advantage of a \$150 million saving in operational costs put in place by its new owners over the next three years. Estimates at the time of the hard-fought takeover had suggested savings of about \$80 million over the same period.

But Mr Sheppard faces his toughest task on the trip in Miami, where he has to persuade analysts of the prospects for the under-performing Burger King hamburger business, also bought as part of Pillsbury.

Bond seeks Packer ruling

From A Correspondent

BOND Media has started proceedings in the Supreme Court of Western Australia seeking a ruling on the repayment of preference shares to Mr Kerry Packer, the Australian millionaire. Bond Media, a 51.6 per cent-owned subsidiary of Bond Corp Holdings, said it was "seeking a declaration... that the company is not permitted to redeem its preference shares on 31st March 1990."

The company has said it

believes that in the absence of sufficient profits or a fresh issue of shares for the purpose of redemption, it would not be permitted under the Companies Code to redeem the preference shares.

It is due to repay Mr Packer Aus\$200 million (£92.2 million) on Saturday as the final instalment of its Aus\$1.05 billion purchase of Australia's Channel 9 television network from Mr Packer in 1987.

Meanwhile, Bond Media is

also negotiating a three-month extension on an Aus\$367 million loan facility from a syndicate of banks which is led by National Australia Bank, a spokesman for Bond said.

The loan was due to be repaid yesterday. The Federal Court has rejected National Australia's request for leave to appeal against the removal of receivers from Bond Corp's Australian brewing assets.

Gas power station project agreed at East Midlands

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

EAST Midlands Electricity, one of the new power distribution companies, has completed a series of agreements which should enable construction to start this summer at Corby, Northamptonshire, on one of Britain's earliest new-generation combined-cycle gas-fuelled power stations.

The £120 million project, whose 350 megawatts capacity will meet the current peak-time demand for Corby, Kettering and Northampton, is expected to be operational in 1993. The only other combined-cycle station expected to be on stream at about the same time is in Lakeland.

With the Northamptonshire project in place - contracts are expected to be signed when final details have been settled - Mr John Harris, chairman of East Midlands Electricity, is looking to a second gas-fuelled power station of the same capacity located in the south of East Midlands territory. Its area goes as far south as Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

East Midlands is also negotiating for another power station at Bilsborough, Nottinghamshire, which would be coal-burning and of 150 megawatts capacity. Mr Harris said: "I am hopeful that the equations of electricity price, coal price and capital cost will work out to make it competitive. We should know how things look by June."

Two combined-cycle stations plus Bilsborough would enable East Midlands to meet 17 per cent of demand through independent power projects aside from supplies which would come from National Power and PowerGen, the two leading power generators.

East Midlands is taking a 45 per cent stake in the Corby project. The rest will be taken by Hawker Siddeley, whose power engineering subsidiary will build the plant.

Gas will be supplied by BP from its North Sea Bruce field through the British Gas grid in the North Sea in the first deal under a new arrangement which allows 10 per cent of a field's output to be sold direct by the exploration company. Mr Harris sees the Corby project as "a major milestone in the introduction of competitive, independent and environmentally-friendly electricity production."

COMPANY BRIEFS

ATLAS CONVERTING (Fin)
Pre-tax: £5.05m (£3.37m)
EPS: 38.7p (26.5p)
Div: 10p, mkg 15p (10p)

AMBASSADOR SECURITY
Pre-tax: £0.62m (£0.45m)
EPS: 4.48p (4.12p)
Div: 0.5p (nil)

EDMOND HOLDINGS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £4.18m (£4.89m)
EPS: 5.55p (5.71p)
Div: 1.2p, mkg 1.85p

FOOD INDUSTRIES (Fin)
Pre-tax: £8.03m (£8.1m)
EPS: 18.74p (16.05p)
Div: 3.3p, mkg 4.9p (4p)

MICHAEL PAGE GROUP
Pre-tax: £5.92m (£4.71m)
EPS: 6.05p (4.90p)
Div: 1.2p, mkg 1.8p

HARRY RAMSDENS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £467,000
EPS: 5.1p
Div: Nil

Turnover up 32 per cent to £28.9m. Atlas has started the year with a good order book, indicating increased output in 1990.

Final results. Turnover increased by 41 per cent to £2.1m. Board says expansion will continue by organic growth and by acquisitions.

Last year's total dividend was 1.7p. Interest payable rose to £1.18m (£1.18m). Turnover slipped to £16.9m (£19.1m).

Figures in Ir£. Extraordinary gains of £928,000 are from the disposal of part of FI's investment in its cold storage division.

Final results. Last year's total dividend was 1.5p. Group turnover increased by 28 per cent to £50.8m. Company expects difficult first half.

The company said the current year had started well with both sales and profits ahead of last year. Sales stood at £1.73m.



Royal Insurance

1989 REPORT

1989 was a mixed year, with a strong stockmarket strengthening our overall Capital and Reserves but with unprecedented natural catastrophes affecting trading results.

However, our total financial strength enables us to recommend a 13.3% increase in the dividend for the year, to 25.5p.

Welcome news not only for our shareholders but also for our policyholders worldwide whose protection rests on our strength and who can be reassured by the fact that "We are there when you need us".

We have amended the presentation of the accounts to focus on the wider

issue of total movement in Capital and Reserves which now stand at £2,663m.

We believe this concept of "Total Return" will enable shareholders to form a better assessment of the full value of the Group and the underlying strength of its operations.

Looking forward to the new decade, we intend to play a full part in the changing scene in Continental Europe. We also see a growing demand for a global insurance facility which will provide us with increased opportunities.

For our full 1989 story, and a glimpse at our prospects for 1990 and beyond, please send the coupon below for the Royal's Annual Report and Accounts.

FINANCIAL HEADLINES

- Capital and Reserves increased by £529m to £2,663m, up 25%
- Net assets per share up from 441p to 546p
- Pre-tax trading profit £126m (1988: £223m)
- Earnings per share 18.6p (1988: 32.1p)
- Total dividend up 13.3% to 25.5p per share
- Premium income up over 19% to £4,743m
- Investment income up 25% to £522m



The 1989 Annual Report and Accounts is being posted to all shareholders. Copies are available from Group Corporate Relations, Royal Insurance plc, 1 Cornhill, London, EC3V 3QR.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____

LIFE HOMES

LIFEHOMES ASSURED TENANCIES PLC

Business Expansion Scheme

Sponsored by Master Financial Services Ltd (a member of FIMBRA)

- Minimum aggregate subscription £1 million underwritten by The Private Bank & Trust Company Limited
- Minimum investment £2,000
- Closing date 6th April 1990

This issue will proceed

Respond immediately by telephoning for a copy of the prospectus:

01-794 6600

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

or

Fax message to 01-794 3707

This advertisement has been issued and approved by Master Financial Services Ltd (140-140 Finsbury Road, London NW2 2HR) who are a member of the Financial Services Commission (FSC). This advertisement is not a recommendation to subscribe to shares which can only be accepted on the terms and conditions set out in the prospectus. Master Financial Services Ltd will be unopposed and therefore any investment carries a higher risk than in the case of a company.

Financial services are provided by a professional adviser authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986, particularly to determine whether this offer is suitable for the investor's needs and to determine the amount of tax relief, if any, that the investor may claim.

STOCK MARKET

Futures help prices edge higher

HEAVY trading in the financial futures market continued to dictate events in the stock market, where prices were able to cut back some of Tuesday's sharp falls.

Turnover in the March FTSE Index series soared to at least 5,000 contracts ahead of tomorrow's expiry day as traders continued to unwind the positions that have built up since the start of the year. Market-makers are increasingly using the futures market to hedge their positions in the equity market by selling stock to buy the futures positions. This sometimes creates a squeeze when they attempt to unravel their positions ahead of the expiry period.

Dealers reported modest gains in the equity market in this trading which saw only 359 million shares traded. Best levels were not always held with much of the attention again focused on a steady stream of trading statements. The index finished 8.8 higher at 2,275.0, having been 14.2 up. The FT index of top 30 shares rose 6.4 to 1,793.0.

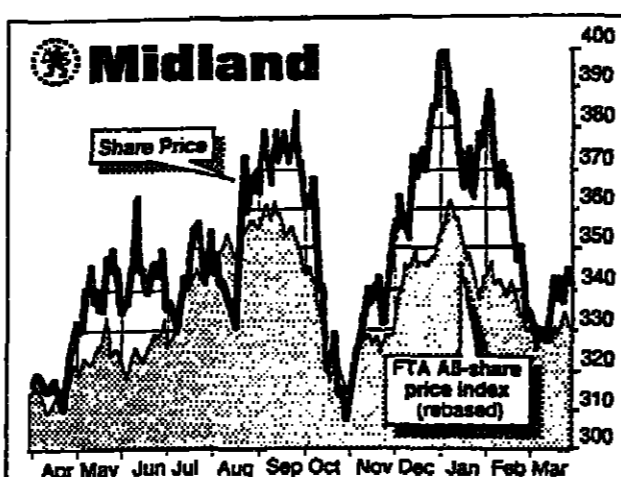
Government securities spent a nervous day but managed to reduce falls of 1/2% to 1 1/8% by the close. Full-year figures from Kingfisher were well received and they showed pre-tax profits up

from £224 million to £294.7 million. The result of the Monopolies Commission's inquiry into its bid for Dixons is expected at the end of next month. Dixons firmed 2p to 121p.

Thorn EMI rose 12p to 680p ahead of the news that it is in talks with BEI Electronics in the US about the sale of Syston Donner, its aerospace sub-systems subsidiary. The senior management of Syston is also hoping to take part in the deal.

The food retailers were flat, worried by escalating pay awards for check-out staff. Tesco is offering its 70,000 employees a 16.5 per cent increase. The move follows an 11 per cent award by Sainsbury, down 2p at 257p, and a 26 per cent rise, over three years, by Marks and Spencer, 1p up at 196p. Argill, the Sainsbury supermarket chain, fell 3p to 206p and Tesco eased 1 1/2p to 199p.

Molins, which makes equipment for the tobacco industry, rose 5p to 251p as the group prepared to fight its third aggressive bidder in three years. The previous two offers were made by Sir Ron Briery, the New Zealand businessman. This time Leucadia, a US manufacturing and financial services group, is



bidding 252p a share, valuing Molins at almost £76 million. Molins rejected the terms as "totally inadequate." Sir Ron has agreed to sell his 33 per cent stake to Leucadia, lifting its total holding to 34.8 per cent.

Grand Metropolitan advanced a further 12p to 605p with market-makers becoming increasingly squeezed. The tour of GrandMet's US operations by fund managers and brokers has started to reach a crucial stage. They have been visiting the Burger King and Pillsbury food operations and first reports seem favourable. GrandMet bought Pillsbury in 1988, pushing up borrow-

ings sharply. But it has since undergone a reorganization with GrandMet selling bits it did not require. Its US operations are now expected to give a boost to earnings during the next few years. Meanwhile, in Britain, GrandMet recently sold its Watney Mann and Truman brewing interests to Elders LXL. It also formed a joint public house venture company with Elders.

Elsewhere in the drinks sector, selective support lifted Allied-Lyons 4p to 462p. Boddington Group added 5p to 140p after full-year figures showing pre-tax profits up from £14.8 million to £16.2 million. Analysts are forecast-

ing earnings growth of 30 per cent a year during the next two years. But falls were seen in Bass, 1p to 935p, Vaux, 2p to 228p, and Whitbread A, 1p to 384p.

Laing Properties jumped 13p to 660p after 675p, following the increased terms from P&O and Chelsfield, the privately-owned property company. P&O has raised its cash offer from 650p to 725p a share, valuing the group at £480 million. Laing has rejected the terms. Last week, it made an asset revaluation of 910p a share - which was way above market estimates.

Tinsley Robor, the paper and packaging group, leapt 11p to 35p on the news that it was in bid talks with its biggest shareholder, Wace Group, 2p firmer at 295p. The approach followed hard on the heels of the news that Wace had picked up a further 3.84 million shares at 27p each, raising its total holding to 5.04 million shares, or 19.82 per cent. But the board of Tinsley Robor urged shareholders to take no action.

Elsewhere in the sector, shares of Robert Horne made a firm start before a halt was called to trading. The ordinary were frozen at 435p and the A shares at 371p. Last week, Buhrmann Tetterode, the Dutch com-

pany, announced that it was in talks with Horne's biggest shareholder, controlling 51 per cent of the shares.

The clearing banks recovered from a mark-down, prompted by a sizeable downgrading of Midland Bank's profits by one broker. County NatWest WoodMac, a subsidiary of the National Westminster Bank, has lopped £85 million from its forecast for the current year of £670 million. It blames further problems in its treasury operations. Costs are also continuing to rise. The problem had been exacerbated by running two cheque-processing systems.

Last year, Midland reported a pre-tax loss of £261 million compared with a profit of £693 million in 1988. The Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank holds a 14.9 per cent stake. Both sides are in talks about closer co-operation.

Meanwhile, Barclays Bank closed 4p better at 589p, Lloyds Bank rose 5p to 298p, and National Westminster Bank 11p to 353p. Revived bid talk lifted Standard Chartered, the international banking group, 17p to 345p.

Michael Clark

WALL STREET

Tokyo slide hits Dow

New York THE Dow Jones industrial average was down 6 points at 2,730.94 in early trading and declining issues moderately outnumbered rises in the general market.

A fresh drop in Tokyo prices overnight led to selling here after a mixed opening.

The market failed to follow up Tuesday's late advance because it was based on program buying in thin turnover that may have exaggerated buying interest.

● Houston - American General has received an offer from Torchmark which it will consider on May 2. (Reuters)

Mar 28 Mar 27 Mar 26 Mar 25 Mar 24 Mar 23 Mar 22 Mar 21 Mar 20 Mar 19 Mar 18 Mar 17 Mar 16 Mar 15 Mar 14 Mar 13 Mar 12 Mar 11 Mar 10 Mar 9 Mar 8 Mar 7 Mar 6 Mar 5 Mar 4 Mar 3 Mar 2 Mar 1

Index	Value	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)	Daily chg (pts)	Yearly chg (pts)
The World	719.5	-1.5	-14.7	-0.4	-10.8
(free)	137.4	-1.5	-14.8	-0.5	-10.7
EAFFE	1249.8	-2.0	-15.8	-1.0	-14.5
(free)	128.2	-2.0	-16.0	-1.1	-14.7
Europe	728.1	-0.1	-3.8	0.1	-3.2
(free)	157.6	-0.1	-3.6	-0.2	-3.3
Nth America	513.2	-0.6	-4.6	-0.1	-3.6
(free)	152.6	-0.7	-2.0	-0.2	-1.4
Nordic	240.6	-0.7	2.3	-0.3	2.8
(free)	2824.7	-3.3	-28.8	-1.8	-21.2
Pacific	4083.8	-3.5	-29.4	-1.9	-21.7
Far East	308.6	-0.5	-11.1	0.0	-5.1
Australia	2045.5	0.1	37.6	0.6	40.7
Belgium	913.8	-0.2	-7.2	0.0	-6.9
Canada	546.8	-0.5	-9.0	0.1	-8.5
Denmark	1995.0	-0.3	6.0	0.0	5.9
Finland	109.9	-0.8	-4.7	-0.4	-4.0
(free)	148.0	-1.1	-0.7	0.0	-0.6
France	768.8	-0.4	-4.8	-0.2	-4.4
Germany	976.2	-0.2	6.4	0.1	8.6
Hong Kong	2320.6	-1.3	-4.6	-0.8	-5.8
Italy	367.9	-0.4	-4.6	-0.1	-4.4
Japan	4286.2	-3.6	-30.5	-2.0	-22.6
Netherlands	900.0	-0.2	-4.8	0.5	-3.1
New Zealand	87.7	-0.8	-14.9	0.6	-11.3
Norway	1615.8	-1.1	20.4	-0.6	21.7
(free)	281.3	-1.2	20.4	-0.8	21.6
Sing/Malay	2044.6	-1.1	2.5	-0.4	2.7
Spain	198.0	-0.3	-16.4	0.0	-15.6
Sweden	1589.8	-0.7	-9.4	-0.2	-8.9
(free)	221.2	-0.7	-6.6	-0.2	-6.1
Switzerland	851.7	-0.1	-8.9	-0.2	-7.5
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UK	673.4	0.2	-6.6	0.2	-6.6
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(By) Local currency.

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

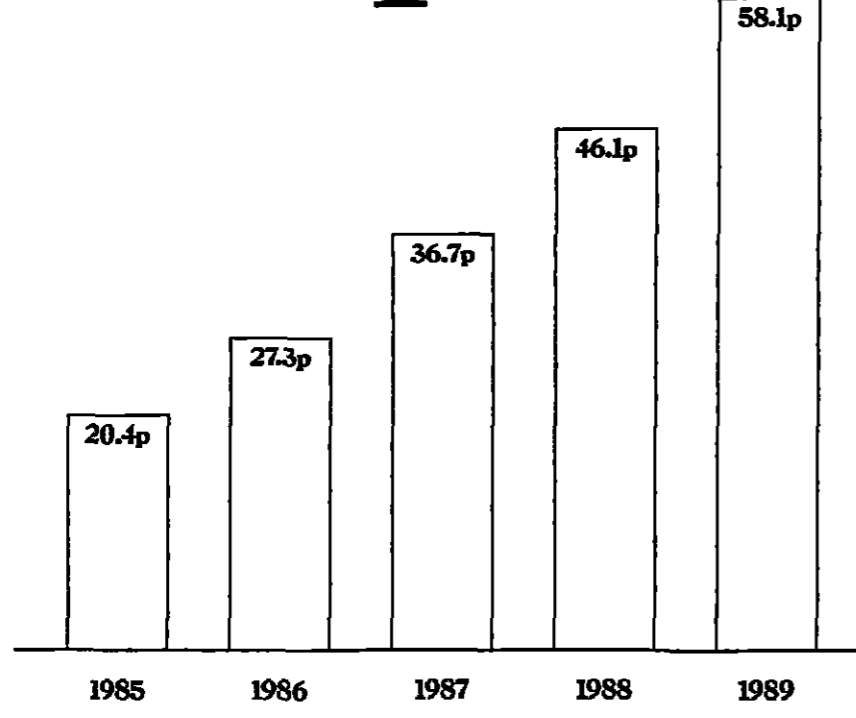
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(By) Local currency.

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

BOWATER

Growing to plan



EARNINGS PER SHARE

It is pleasing to note that the return on sales in continuing businesses has improved from 7.5% in 1988 to 8.3% this year.

Our strategy is to develop Bowater into a company which can improve both the long as well as the short term wealth of the shareholders. Significant efforts were devoted by management to acquiring and integrating companies whose contribution will enhance profits in future years.

The year has started well. We face 1990 with quiet confidence.

-Norman Ireland, Chairman

All enquiries to David Lyon, Chief Executive, Bowater Industries plc Telephone 01 584 7170

Issued by the Directors of Bowater Industries plc who accept responsibility for the contents of this advertisement, which has been approved by Ernst & Young, a firm authorised by The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on investment business.

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Friday, April 20 09:00-16:00

Keynote address: Bill Joy, Sun Co-founder
Thursday, April 19 09:00

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and 100 stand exhibits

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Postcode _____ Country _____
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BANK OF SCOTLAND GROSS INTEREST DEPOSIT

Bank of Scotland announces that the interest rate on its Gross Interest Deposit has been fixed at 15% GROSS for funds lodged by Monday 30th April 1990. To qualify for this rate you need a minimum of £50,000 to invest for a fixed period of 3 months. The maximum sum accepted is £250,000. The rate for funds received after 30th April will be announced shortly.

You can lodge funds direct to Bank of Scotland, 38 Threadneedle Street, London EC2P 2EH or alternatively contact any Branch. Further details including other terms and rates are available by telephoning 01-601 6688.

BANK OF SCOTLAND A FRIEND FOR LIFE

Withdrawals within fixed period are not permitted.

On April 1st, 1990 and henceforth
Blue Arrow PLC
will be known as
MANPOWER PLC
with the stock symbol
MAN
Look for us under "M."

MANPOWER
THE WORLD'S LARGEST EMPLOYMENT SERVICES ORGANISATION

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Car Portland	Property	
2	New Op	Building/Roads	
3	Trinity Int	Newspapers/Pub	
4	Sport TV	Leisure	
5	Logan	Paper/Film/Adv	
6	Pendragon	Motors/Aircraft	
7	Lloyds (aa)	Bank/Discount	
8	MEPC (aa)	Property	
9	Anglia TV 'A'	Leisure	
10	Sterley	Building/Roads	
11	Glaxo (aa)	Pharmaceuticals	
12	Quicks Group	Motors/Aircraft	
13	Scott & Robertson	Industrial S-Z	
14	Net Assets	Bank/Discount	
15	Stratton Sec	Property	
16	Vivit	Drugs/Stores	
17	Perumman	Building/Roads	
18	Williams Hides (aa)	Industrial S-Z	
19	Docus	Industrial A-D	
20	Slough Estates (aa)	Property	
21	Watts Blake	Building/Roads	
22	Mervy Docks	Transport	
23	Ireland Frozen	Food	
24	TIP Europe	Transport	
25	Christies Int	Industrial A-D	
26	Shirley & Fisher	Building/Roads	
27	Ladbrokes (aa)	Horse/Casinos	
28	Bank (aa)	Bank/Discount	
29	Union Dac	Bank/Discount	
30	Br Land (aa)	Property	
31	Amrad (aa)	Electricals	
32	Alcon	Drugs/Stores	
33	Cambridge Elec	Electricals	
34	Jourdan (Thomas)	Industrial E-K	
35	Lon Int	Industrial L-R	
36	Boddington	Breweries	
37	Assoc Br Ports	Transport	
38	Kingfisher (aa)	Drugs/Stores	
39	Stag Furniture	Industrial S-Z	
40	Dela	Electricals	
41	Aquaculture 'A'	Drugs/Stores	
42	Unilever (aa)	Industrial S-Z	
43	Naumen Protection	Industrial E-K	
44	Bison (P)	Property	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

There were no valid claims in yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum competition. Today's prize is doubled to £4,000.

BRITISH FUNDS

1989/90	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Div
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SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1989/90	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Div
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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1989/90	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Div
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OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1989/90	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Div
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UNDATED

1989/90	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Div
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INDEX-LINKED

1989/90	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Div
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BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

1989/90	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Div
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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares slip below best

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 26. Dealings end April 6. Contango day April 9. Settlement day April 17.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 29)

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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BREWERIES

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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BUILDING, ROADS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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FINANCE, LAND

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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FOODS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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DRAPERY, STORES

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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ELECTRICALS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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INDUSTRIALS A-D

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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INDUSTRIALS E-K

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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INDUSTRIALS L-R

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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INDUSTRIALS S-Z

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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INDUSTRIALS A-D

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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INDUSTRIALS E-K

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
---------	------	-----	---------	-------	--------	---	-----

INDUSTRIALS L-R

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
---------	------	-----	---------	-------	--------	---	-----

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
---------	------	-----	---------	-------	--------	---	-----

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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INSURANCE

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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LEISURE

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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MINING

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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PROPERTY

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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SHOES, LEATHER

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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TEXTILES

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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TOBACCO

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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TRANSPORT

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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OVERSEAS TRADERS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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PROPERTY

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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SHOES, LEATHER

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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TEXTILES

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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TOBACCO

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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TRANSPORT

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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WATER

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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Portfolio PLATINUM

© Times Newspapers Limited
DAILY DIVIDEND
£4,000
Claims required for +39 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

OVERSEAS TRADERS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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PROPERTY

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
---------	------	-----	---------	-------	--------	---	-----

SHOES, LEATHER

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
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TEXTILES

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
---------	------	-----	---------	-------	--------	---	-----

TOBACCO

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
---------	------	-----	---------	-------	--------	---	-----

TRANSPORT

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
---------	------	-----	---------	-------	--------	---	-----

WATER

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div
---------	------	-----	---------	-------	--------	---	-----

Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend a interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and value exclude a special dividend f Forward share price forecast earnings a Ex other f Ex rights a Ex bonus or share split i Tax-free ... No significant data

ity

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was up at 87.6 (day's range 87.3-87.6).

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at \$7.6 (day's range \$7.3-\$7.6).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for March 26

	Range	Close	1 month	3 months
New York	1,622.1-1,629.0	1,627.0-1,629.0	0.84-0.87p	2.59-2.57p
Monri	1,601.1-1,612.2	1,612.5-1,619.2	0.98-0.02p	0.95-0.02p
Amsterd	3,129.3-3,133.3	3,129.3-3,133.3	15-14p	45-45p
Frankfurt	2,717.7-2,727.7	2,717.7-2,727.7	15-14p	45-45p
Copenhagen	10,577.1-10,622.7	10,577.1-10,622.7	35-25p	95-25p
Dublin	1,039.5-1,043.2	1,040.5-1,045.0	35-27p	85-27p
Geneva	2,717.7-2,727.7	2,717.7-2,727.7	15-14p	45-45p
London	244.3-244.4	244.3-244.4	11-30p	116-144p
Madrid	177.4-178.3	177.4-177.9	39-31p	85-32p
Paris	2041.6-2042.9	2,041.6-2,044.7	5-4p	15-11p
Oslo	10,721.5-10,777.7	10,722.5-10,781.1	25-11p	85-75p
Stockholm	6,340.6-6,372.7	6,340.6-6,355.6	39-35p	105-100p
Switzerland	10,089.1-10,100.0	10,089.1-10,100.0	4-2p	15-11p
Tokyo	257.1-257.8	258.2-258.4	11-11p	15-14p
Zurich	1,039.5-1,043.2	1,040.5-1,045.0	35-27p	85-27p
Vienna	2,682.5-2,689.2	2,683.5-2,689.4	11-11p	35-35p

Premiums = gr. Discount = dis.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austrar	7578.24-7944.57
Australia dollar	2.1789-2.2181
Bahrain dollar	0.8075-0.8139
Brazil cruzeiro	60.2641-61.3575
Cyprus pound	0.7730-0.7839
Finland marks	6.5415-6.0385
Greece drachma	206.26-206.26
Hong Kong dollar	12.32-12.3205
India rupee	27.75-28.25
Indonesia KR	0.0755-0.0765
Malaysia ringgit	4.4411-4.4442
Mexico peso	4.4601-4.4601
Netherlands dollar	2.2627-2.2627
Saudi Arabia riyal	0.0395-0.0415
Singapore dollar	0.7070-0.7085
S. Africa rand	4.3324-4.3324
S. Africa rand (com)	4.3324-4.3324
U. A. E. dirham	5.9125-5.9889

Uyeda Bank, Rates supplied by Cabel and Barclays Bank GTS

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Belgium	1,833.5-1,850.0	Italy	6,836.5-6,135
Denmark	1,833.5-1,850.0	Japan	171.00-1.7110
France	1,833.5-1,850.0	West Germany	1,710.0-1,5187
Germany	2,720.0-2,720.0	Switzerland	6,836.5-6,135
Greece	2,720.0-2,720.0	Sweden	6,836.5-6,135
India	1,710.0-1,710.0	Spain	5,975.0-5,950.0
Indonesia	6,135.0-6,135.0	Thailand	1,710.0-1,710.0
Japan	1,710.0-1,710.0	U. S. dollar	1,710.0-1,710.0
South Africa	6,135.0-6,135.0	U. S. dollar	1,710.0-1,710.0
Switzerland	6,135.0-6,135.0	U. S. dollar	1,710.0-1,710.0
U. S. dollar	1,710.0-1,710.0	U. S. dollar	1,710.0-1,710.0
U. S. dollar	1,710.0-1,710.0	U. S. dollar	1,710.0-1,710.0

Prices supplied by Barclays Bank GTS and Excal.

MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates 15% Clearing Banks 15% Finance House 15%
 Money Rate 15%
 Overnight Bank: 14% Low 14% Week bank: 14%
 1 month: 14% 3 months: 14% 6 months: 14%
 1 year: 14% 18 months: 14% 24 months: 14%
 2 months: 14% 14% 3 months: 14% 14% 6 months: 14% 14%
 1 year: 14% 18 months: 14% 24 months: 14%
 1 month: 14% 3 months: 14% 6 months: 14% 1 year: 14%
 18 months: 14% 24 months: 14%
 1 month: 14% 3 months: 14% 6 months: 14% 1 year: 14%
 18 months: 14% 24 months: 14%
 1 month: 14% 3 months: 14% 6 months: 14% 1 year: 14%
 18 months: 14% 24 months: 14%

Local Authority Deposits (%)
 1 month: 14% 3 months: 14% 6 months: 14% 1 year: 14%
 18 months: 14% 24 months: 14%

Local Authority Deposits (%)
 1 month: 14% 3 months: 14% 6 months: 14% 1 year: 14%
 18 months: 14% 24 months: 14%

Local Authority Deposits (%)
 1 month: 14% 3 months: 14% 6 months: 14% 1 year: 14%
 18 months: 14% 24 months: 14%

Local Authority Deposits (%)
 1 month: 14% 3 months: 14% 6 months: 14% 1 year: 14%
 18 months: 14% 24 months: 14%

Local Authority Deposits (%)
 1 month: 14% 3 months: 14% 6 months: 14% 1 year: 14%
 18 months: 14% 24 months: 14%

Local Authority Deposits (%)
 1 month: 14% 3 months: 14% 6 months: 14% 1 year: 14%
 18 months: 14% 24 months: 14%

ECGD
Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Feb

26, 1990 - Agreed rates March 26, 1990 to April 24, 1990. Scheme I at \$15.67 per cent. Schemes II & III at \$16.41 per cent. Refundable Feb. 1990 to Feb. 28, 1990. Scheme IV at \$15.14 per cent.					PRECIOUS METALS Platinum per the \$477.25 (\$293.70) Palladium per the \$175.00 (\$79.50) Spot Silver \$4.95-4.97 (\$3.035-3.050)				
LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES									
Open High Low Close Vol					Open High Low Close Vol				
FT-SE 100					Three month EC				
Mar 90	2270.0	2280.0	2281.0	2281.0	Jun 90	89.04	89.06	89.09	Previous open without 89.04
Jan 90	2267.0	2271.0	2270.0	2270.0	Jul 90	89.01	89.11	89.11	89.09
Three Month Sterling					US Treasury Bond				
Jun 90	84.78	84.78	84.73	84.78	Jun 90	53-14	53-14	53-14	Previous open interest 4888
Jan 90	85.11	85.15	85.04	85.16	Oct 90	53-08	53-08	53-08	1607
Three Month Eurodollar					Long Gilt				
Jun 90	91.34	91.26	91.26	91.26	Jun 90	90-18	91-03	91-03	Previous open interest 1113
Jan 90	91.23	91.28	91.23	91.28	Oct 90	90-16	90-27	90-27	1607
Three Month Euro DM					Swiss Govt Bond				
Jun 90	91.17	91.11	91.10	91.28	Jun 90	92-40	92-40	92-40	Previous open interest 713
Jan 90	90.94	90.99	90.99	91.28	Oct 90	92-40	92-40	92-40	1607
Three Month Euro Yen					German Govt Bond				
Jun 90	91.17	91.11	91.10	91.28	Jun 90	83-26	83-26	83-26	Previous open interest 5888
Jan 90	90.94	90.99	90.99	91.28	Oct 90	83-26	83-26	83-26	1607
COMMODITIES									
LONDON FOMX					LONDON METAL EXCHANGE				
COCOA					Official prices/volume previous day				
Mar 757-756	Dec 819-818	Mar 840-838	Dec 840-838	Mar 840-838	Rudolf's Wait				
Jan 772-771	Mar 840-838	May 840-838	Mar 840-838	May 840-838	Type				
Dec 776-775	Mar 840-838	May 840-838	Mar 840-838	May 840-838	Type				
COFFEE					Copper				
Mar 654-650	AMT Futures	Mar 654-650	AMT Futures	Mar 654-650	Cash 3 month Vol				
Jan 650-647	Mar 654-650	May 654-650	Mar 654-650	May 654-650	Vol				
Dec 650-647	Mar 654-650	May 654-650	Mar 654-650	May 654-650	Vol				
SUGAR					Zinc				
Mar 345-344.8	Dec 335-332.5	Mar 345-344.8	Dec 335-332.5	Mar 345-344.8	Aluminum				
Jan 340-338.4	Mar 345-344.8	May 345-344.8	Mar 345-344.8	May 345-344.8	Nickel				
Dec 340-338.4	Mar 345-344.8	May 345-344.8	Mar 345-344.8	May 345-344.8	(\$/cents per Troy oz. \$1000)				
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES					MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION				
WHEAT CLASS (c/4)					A've livestock prices at representative				
Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Vol 106.20	Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	markings on carcasses				
Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Vol 106.20	Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Markings on carcasses				
BARLEY SEED (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Vol 107.80	Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Pig Slaughter				
SOYABEAN					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Jan 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Oct 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Oct 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES					Pig Slaughter				
WHEAT CLASS (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Vol 106.20	Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Vol 106.20	Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Pig Slaughter				
BARLEY SEED (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Vol 107.80	Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Pig Slaughter				
SOYABEAN					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Jan 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Oct 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Oct 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES					Pig Slaughter				
WHEAT CLASS (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Vol 106.20	Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Vol 106.20	Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Pig Slaughter				
BARLEY SEED (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Vol 107.80	Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Pig Slaughter				
SOYABEAN					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Jan 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Oct 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Oct 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES					Pig Slaughter				
WHEAT CLASS (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Vol 106.20	Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Vol 106.20	Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Pig Slaughter				
BARLEY SEED (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Vol 107.80	Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Pig Slaughter				
SOYABEAN					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Jan 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Oct 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Oct 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES					Pig Slaughter				
WHEAT CLASS (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Vol 106.20	Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Vol 106.20	Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Pig Slaughter				
BARLEY SEED (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Vol 107.80	Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Pig Slaughter				
SOYABEAN					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Jan 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Oct 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Oct 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES					Pig Slaughter				
WHEAT CLASS (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Vol 106.20	Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Vol 106.20	Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Pig Slaughter				
BARLEY SEED (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Vol 107.80	Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Pig Slaughter				
SOYABEAN					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Jan 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Oct 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Oct 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES					Pig Slaughter				
WHEAT CLASS (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Vol 106.20	Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Vol 106.20	Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Pig Slaughter				
BARLEY SEED (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Vol 107.80	Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Pig Slaughter				
SOYABEAN					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Jan 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Oct 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Oct 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES					Pig Slaughter				
WHEAT CLASS (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Vol 106.20	Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Vol 106.20	Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Pig Slaughter				
BARLEY SEED (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Vol 107.80	Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Pig Slaughter				
SOYABEAN					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Jan 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Oct 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Oct 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES					Pig Slaughter				
WHEAT CLASS (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Vol 106.20	Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Vol 106.20	Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Pig Slaughter				
BARLEY SEED (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Vol 107.80	Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Pig Slaughter				
SOYABEAN					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Jan 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Oct 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Oct 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES					Pig Slaughter				
WHEAT CLASS (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Vol 106.20	Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Vol 106.20	Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Pig Slaughter				
BARLEY SEED (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Vol 107.80	Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Pig Slaughter				
SOYABEAN					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Jan 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Oct 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Oct 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES					Pig Slaughter				
WHEAT CLASS (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Vol 106.20	Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Vol 106.20	Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Pig Slaughter				
BARLEY SEED (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Vol 107.80	Mar 104.50	Vol 103.80	Pig Slaughter				
SOYABEAN					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	AMT Futures	Mar 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Jan 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
Oct 125.5-125.0	Mar 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Oct 125.5-125.0	Dec 125.5-125.0	Pig Slaughter				
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES					Pig Slaughter				
WHEAT CLASS (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Vol 106.20	Mar 112.25	Jun 114.50	Pig Slaughter				
Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Vol 106.20	Jan 110.00	Mar 112.25	Pig Slaughter				
BARLEY SEED (c/4)					Pig Slaughter				
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A city reunites with the sea

Southampton was once a city proud of its past but with little direction for the future. This report looks at how the Waterfront development has provided a catalyst for growth

Before its waterfront revolution, Southampton was a city relaxing into genteel old age, reliving its past glories but with no vision of the future, according to Councillor Alan Whitehead, leader of the Labour council, in power since 1984.

He says: "It was partly because it was in a prosperous part of the UK that it was never on its uppers and no one wanted to do much about it. It was pleasant, but it was stagnating."

During the economic ills of the late Seventies and early Eighties, the then Tory council, led by the present Mayor, Norman Best, tried unsuccessfully to persuade Associated British Ports, which owns the Southampton Water port area, to release some of the land for development. Part of the aim was to minimize the effect of the recession on the city's diverse economy.

Mr Whitehead says the council decided it had to take action over the city's direction "or it was just going to be a pleasant provincial city with a glorious past and not much future. The Waterfront idea came about because the community felt the city was relaxing into a genteel age living on its past," he says.

Mr Best does not agree. "The city did not stagnate any more than anywhere else. The country as a whole rested on its past," he says.

"During the economic bad time, the Port was not prepared to release land. It was a traumatic period in the docks

— they were known as a no-go area across the world and we were losing trade to Felixstowe and other docks.

"They released the land when the economic upturn came, an example of how — when the climate is not right — you cannot persuade people to do something against their financial judgement."

The heavy traffic port was then redeveloped into modern docks, laying out a new future for Southampton Water.

Mr Whitehead says: "It is matching the needs of the population with the needs of a thriving and developing port. It is also giving the city back its water. When I came to the university in 1969, living by the sea and not seeing it made no sense."

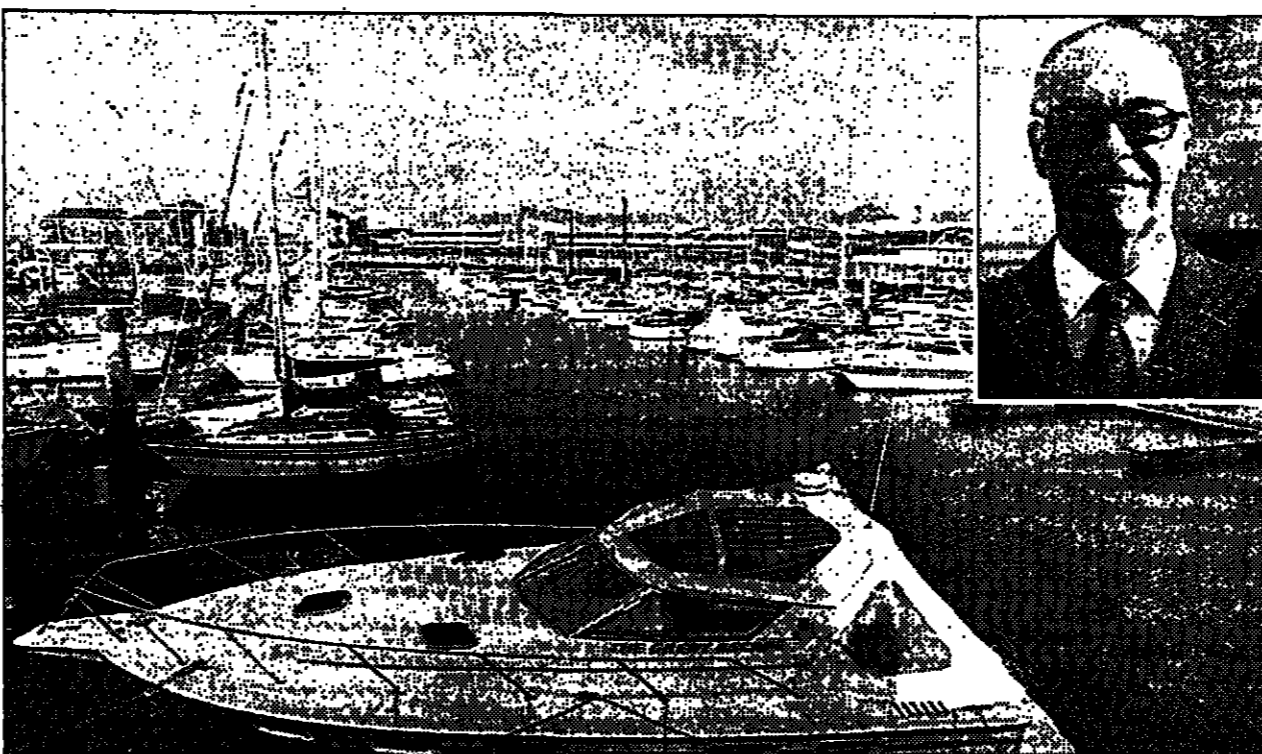
"The city was by the sea, a proportion of the people worked by it in the docks but because of the docks you could never see the water."

"One of my dreams was that people would be able to live by the sea again, that the city should be seen as a maritime city by the residents and the visitors and that there should be full public access."

The Waterfront development has given Southampton an exciting sweep of leisure, water sports, commerce, housing, shopping, entertainment and nightlife.

Where once there was ocean-going cargo and pleasure ships, now there are moorings for hundreds of yachts and pleasure craft.

Mr Whitehead says: "We have never had one big thing that attracts people, but now



Waterfront revolution: heavy traffic docks have been transformed into modern marinas. Inset: the Mayor, Norman Best

we have: the city itself, that is the big attraction here."

The Waterfront development starts at Ocean Village, at the Itchen Bridge end of the Port. The Village covers 75 acres and was started in 1986, 124 years after the port opened.

It is a joint venture between Associated British Ports, the country's biggest port operator, and Shearwater Properties. It was different from most UK dockside developments because it was being built alongside a working dock, not a disused one.

Ocean Village has 600 properties — ranging from studio apartments to four-bedroomed houses with water views — a 450-berth marina and leisure facilities, including

a cinema-theatre complex. There is office accommodation, a shopping centre with restaurants and a bar, and an oceanography research centre is in the pipeline.

West of the mooring, where the QE2 calls, is Queen's Quay, covering 24 acres and named to commemorate the city's long association with the Queen liners, which goes back to before World War II. The £100 million development, which is not yet complete, includes a 200-bedroom four-star hotel, housing a 240-berth marina, offices and leisure facilities, all arranged around the old Trafalgar dry dock. It is being developed by Grosvenor Square Properties.

Next door to it is the Town Quay, not far from the city centre and, like the others, to be linked by the People

Mover, an above-ground rail system.

The 38-acre site is being developed by Bargate Securities and has residential and office accommodation, shops and leisure facilities and a marina with the original Harbour Board office as the focal point. It is also the starting and finishing point for the Whitbread round-the-world yacht race.

Plans are underway for the Royal Pier, which is next to the Town Quay and is the pick-up and departure point for Isle of Wight ferries.

Recently there has been an increase in the number of people who commute to London from the Isle of Wight and the People Mover will ease this traffic flow by linking the ferry with the rail station, presently a 15-minute walk.

The council is going into partnership with the Waterfront developers to market the full range of commercial and leisure development opportunities of the waterfront.

Mr Whitehead says: "It has been a considerable success. It has matched the needs of the population with the needs of a thriving and developing port. The city has played a central role and we have had a good partnership between a socialist council and the private sector, planning things in considerable harmony," Mr Whitehead says.

"The council had the land and planning powers, the private sector the money and motivation, and it has worked."

"It is a model for other councils on how they can work together in the future."

New lease of life for the southern hub

Southampton has planned its bid for a place among the great cities of Europe with almost £2 billion of redevelopment

After the bombing of Southampton during World War II, the battered city rebuilt and regained its place in industry. The second redevelopment of Southampton has come about in less dramatic circumstances, but is none the less a facelift for the city which is known as the commercial shipping hub of southern England.

Redevelopment plans have reached the £2 billion range, spread over the retail, residential, commercial and leisure sectors. Demand for retail space is high in Southampton, which attracts shoppers from the New Forest, Winchester, Salisbury and along the coast. Four new shopping centres are either complete or are being built.

The precinct now boasts an additional 100,000 sq ft on three floors in the Bargate centre, a £16 million Asda superstore and the almost-complete Marland centre with 300,000 sq ft retail space. A further planned mall of 83,000 sq ft will house a renovated Woolworths and link it with other stores.

Not all the action is happening in the retail sector, however. The commercial sector is expanding, with major insurance companies taking sites on the Guildhall Square development and around the Civic Centre. The newly-built BBC regional headquarters and studio have opened in the city centre and two of the city's three new hotels, the Ibis and Novotel, are almost complete. A Hilton hotel, under construction on the outskirts at Chilworth, is close to completion.

The Waterfront is rapidly progressing and attracting top businesses, yachtsmen and the public. But much of the project to make Southampton one of the great cities of Europe has yet to be realized. Strategies are being planned with the same sort of precision used by the generals who sent the D-Day invasion from the port on the night of June 5, 1944, except that this time the only transport in the operation is the People Mover, a proposed driverless overhead transit system.

Quality has been emphasized in every aspect of the redevelopment. To the west of the city waterfront lies the free trade zone, which offers prospects for a world trade centre or an exhibition site. Beside it, moving east towards the Royal Pier and with the ancient city walls as a backdrop, is Mayflower Park. There are plans to expand the park into a 100-acre People's Park leisure and water centre. Water may even lap the city walls for the first time since the land was reclaimed in the Twenties.

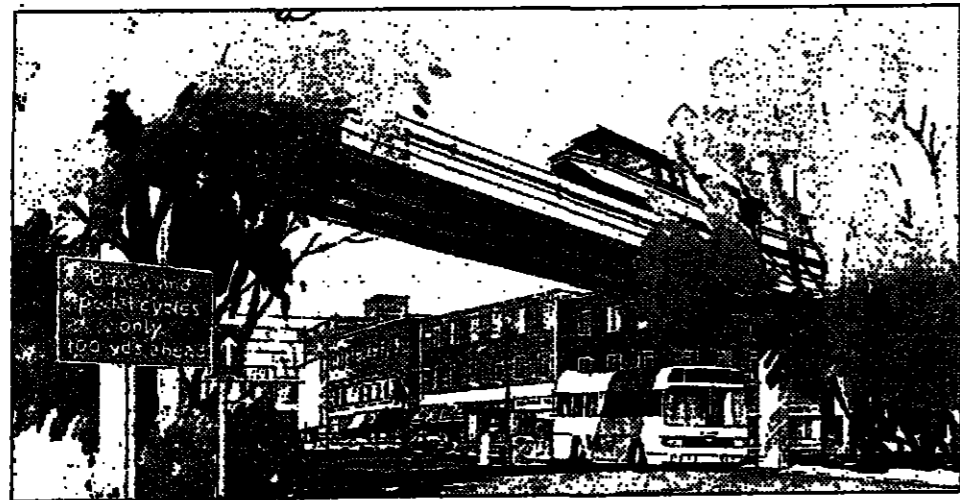
The park, like the waterfront and the city's historic areas and walkways, would be linked to the rest of the centre by the People Mover and new car parks, giving space to thousands of vehicles. Further along is the jewel in the crown of the redevelopment — the 35-acre Frellick site. It has become available as the Frellick cable factory moves over the boundary to its main factory in Eastleigh.

The site is unique in Europe, positioned as it is in the heart of the city, but without any leasehold problems. The plan is to have a mix of business, leisure, car parking with high-quality design stores. It also has the potential to include innovative leisure schemes for children such as a planetarium and technological research centre.



In demand: four new shopping centres are being built

Rail project waits silently for funding



Wheels to the future: an artist's impression of the planned People Mover system.

A new £40 million public rail system is being developed by Southampton to link the city and the docklands development. The system, known as the People Mover, will be the first of its type in Britain.

The system will be based around electric, driverless trains which will run on rubber tyres, gliding silently above the city's centre. Passengers will wait an average of one minute for a train, with a maximum two minutes during peak hours. The cost of travel will be kept to about 40p for a complete trip on the 4.4km route.

Stephen Keys, the project manager for the Rapid Transit Initiative, says: "We don't

want to interrupt existing transport systems so the system will cross 16 roads and three railway lines at a height of 20 ft. It will be vertically separate from all other forms of transport."

The service will operate for up to 18 hours a day, and will take 10 minutes to travel from one to the other. Each train will have up to four coaches, with seating for a total of 240 people.

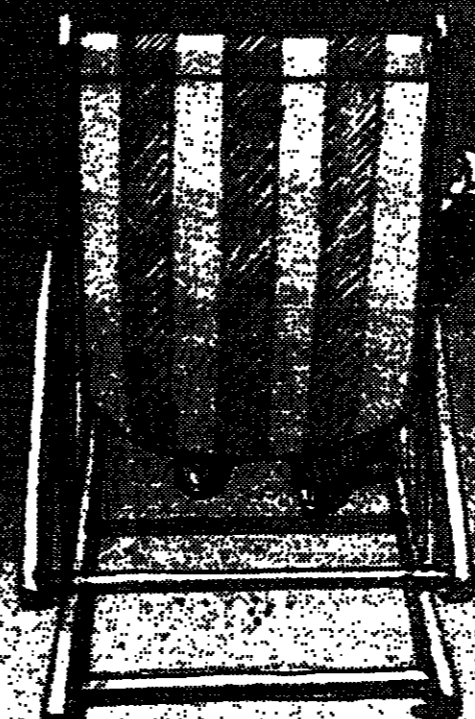
The planned route is from the new BBC studios and Mayflower Theatre at one end, and along the waterfront to the back of Woolworths through Hoglands Park at the other. Car parks will be provided at each of the 12 stations.

The Southampton City Council held an international competition to find a designer for the system. The winner was a British company, Brivay Transit Systems, of Cranleigh, Surrey, run by helicopter expert Alan Bristow.

The new service is classed as a railway, and a Bill granting the required permission is now going through Parliament. The project is still waiting on funding from the private sector before it can proceed, however.

Mr Keys says: "We are looking for investors. We are saying to the developers that if this piece of infrastructure goes ahead, it will add to the value of your property."

Time for a change of view?



WATERFRONT SOUTHAMPTON



A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SOUTHAMPTON'S WATERFRONT DEVELOPERS AND SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

Growing academic reputation

The city's university will add to its reputation when it opens several new campuses to cater for innovative study programmes

The key word in everything to do with Southampton University is growth. Since it received its Royal Charter in 1952 — although its history goes back a further 90 years to when it was a teaching college for science and engineering — it has expanded beyond all expectations.

As its numbers increased, so did its reputation. Its special subjects — chemistry, engineering, economics and oceanography — have earned it an international reputation. The university has 6,964 full-time students and 811 part-time at its campus on the London side of the city. Among the buildings are the Nuffield Theatre, from where several successful productions have gone on to the West End, the Turner Sims Concert Hall, the John Hansard Gallery and a bookshop.

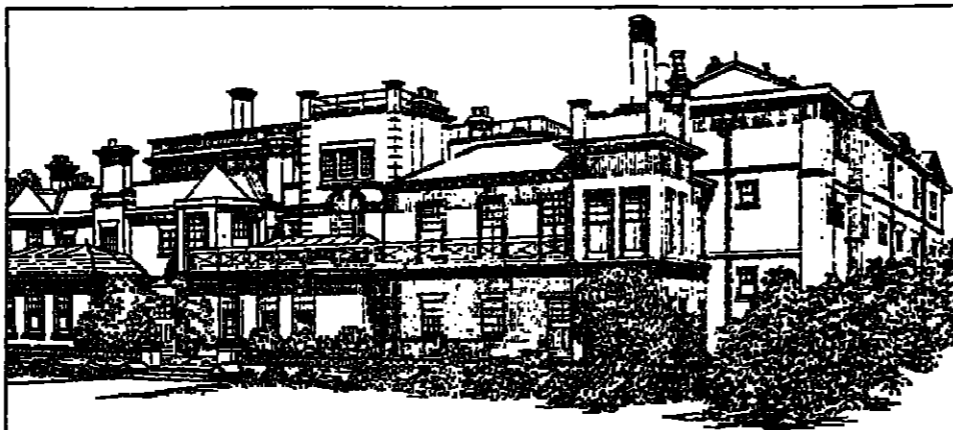
By 1995 it is expected there will be a total of 8,000 full-

time students and by 2030 another 7,000. To meet this demand, a new site at Lord's Wood is being developed. The rise in student numbers, it is predicted, will come from an increase in 18-year-olds going to university as well as an increase in part-time and mature-age students.

The 295-acre site is at the northern edge of the city by the M27 and is a largely commercial area set in coniferous woodland. It is planned to have trees planted and lawns established before building starts on the £200 million-plus low-density landscaped site. The cost will be spread over a 35-year period.

Peter Reader, the university's public relations officer, says: "This is a long-term plan taking environmental considerations into account first. We believe both the students and staff work better in a campus environment rather than on a building site."

A third campus is the



An Edwardian mansion: Chilworth Manor will be re-opened as a conference centre

Chilworth Science Park, a 26-acre site launched in 1984 in co-operation with the Southampton Economic Development Corporation. It is on the outskirts of the city and is also set in woodlands.

From the start it has been a success, attracting more than a dozen small research firms, as well as researchers from the university's science and technology departments. Last year the university undertook research and consultancy work worth £23 million for British and international industry.

The satellite television company BSB is also setting up in the park and has its trans-

mission site almost complete.

Next month, the university's Management School will launch a Master of Business Administration degree, aimed at attracting managers at all stages in their careers.

Students will be able to take courses to suit their working schedules, such as evening or day release. In September the Chilworth Manor conference centre will open. The 90-year-old manor, with an Edwardian interior and set in 14 acres of woodland and landscaped gardens, has been refurbished and equipped with modern visual aids and equipment.

It can cater for 110 people,

with a sleeping capacity of 104, and has a conference theatre and six meeting rooms. There is also a restaurant, brasserie-coffee shop, cocktail bar and fitness centre.

The university, which is a mix of 60 per cent science and 40 per cent arts, is preparing to move most of the Department of Oceanography and Geology, with parts of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, down to a dockside campus. The £35 million development will be near Ocean Village, which is the site of the most comprehensive ocean study in Europe.

The study will involve the

Saving costs when the heat comes on

Southampton's heating system is the envy of many major cities

A geothermal system using water brought from a mile beneath the city heats Southampton's Civic Centre and large parts of the commercial and central area.

The system was developed by the Southampton City Council and the Department of Energy in a research programme partly funded by the EC. In 1979, a bore hole was drilled at Marchwood, west of the city centre. Water was found in an aquifer believed to be 200 million years old. The water came to the surface at a temperature of 72°F, two or three degrees cooler than at its source.

In 1985, the proposal for a geothermal system was threatened when the mine was found to have a life expectancy of only 20 years and a national test programme discovered that Britain's geothermal resources were disappointingly small.

Southampton, however, did not want to let the idea

die. Eventually, the city decided to work with Unifon Ltd, the British subsidiary of the French Idex and Sire companies which had experience of geothermal heating schemes. The geothermal system has been a model of public and private sector co-operation. Water is delivered at a rate of 12 litres a second into the geothermal heat station where salt is extracted. The water is then circulated to customers through underground pipelines, generating its own power through a special system.

The power also drives the pumps which extract the water; any surplus power is sold to the Southern Electricity Board.

The system was switched on in 1988 and has saved the Civic Centre and its local offices 10 per cent of their heating costs.

Now the system is heating the Institute of Higher Education over a mile away, two new French-owned hotels, a supermarket near the Civic Centre, the new BBC regional headquarters and studio and a large insurance office. It is also expected to heat the Pirelli development and the main part of the Waterfront development.

Port rides out a storm

Its place assured, Southampton's port is facing a calm future in the new Europe

The Port of Southampton looks dead now. Gone are the queues of ships waiting to be unloaded, the majestic and glamorous liners that brought film stars and the rich from across the Atlantic, the throb of humanity of the dockers and thousands who worked along the waterfront. It appears a ghost dock now.

As I looked across Southampton Water from the offices of Andrew Kent, Associated British Ports' Southampton Port manager, I could see just two ships — a vast floating car park which is a huge roll-on, roll-off car ferry and a three-masted training schooner.

It was a totally false picture, however, for the ghosts are not of the haunting variety, but ships that come in the night — vast purpose-built container vessels which are rarely seen by the public because they unload so quickly. More than 200,000 container units were handled by the port last year.

A record six million tonnes of cargo now passes through Southampton each year, making it one of the top three ports in Britain. Mr Kent says the port is optimistic about its

future in the single European market and is prepared for the changes taking place after 1992.

Four factors have led to the port's new role: aircraft taking over from the ocean liners, the replacement of small ships by giant deep-water vessels, industrial troubles in the Seventies and early Eighties which sent ships to rival ports, and the ending of the dock labour scheme.

The area which once handled small ships is now the Waterfront development. The rest of the port is being used in a variety of ways:

Container port: The main trade is with South Africa and the Far East, importing and exporting.

Cars: Roll-on, roll-off ferries are used to carry more



Southampton Port manager Andrew Kent: "The port has never done so much business"

than 250,000 cars a year for import and export. Renaults, Fiats, Lancias and Seats are brought in; Austin Rovers, Jaguars, Range Rovers, Hondas and Nissans are taken out, providing a clear indication of Britain's improved trade with its EC partners.

Bulk cargo: This is a new trade. Southampton is the biggest grain-exporting port

with two terminals and a million tonnes exported annually. It has two new long-term contracts with Blue Circle, importing cement, and with Foster Yeoman, importing stone aggregates.

Oil: 20 million tonnes of oil and petroleum products go to the Esso and BP terminals on Southampton Water. Passengers: Southampton

is the base for the QE 2 and the Canberra, visiting liners call regularly, and 120,000 passengers use the port each year. More than a million passengers use the Isle of Wight services provided by Red Funnel, now owned by ABP.

Mr Kent says: "It looks dead, but the port has never done so much business."

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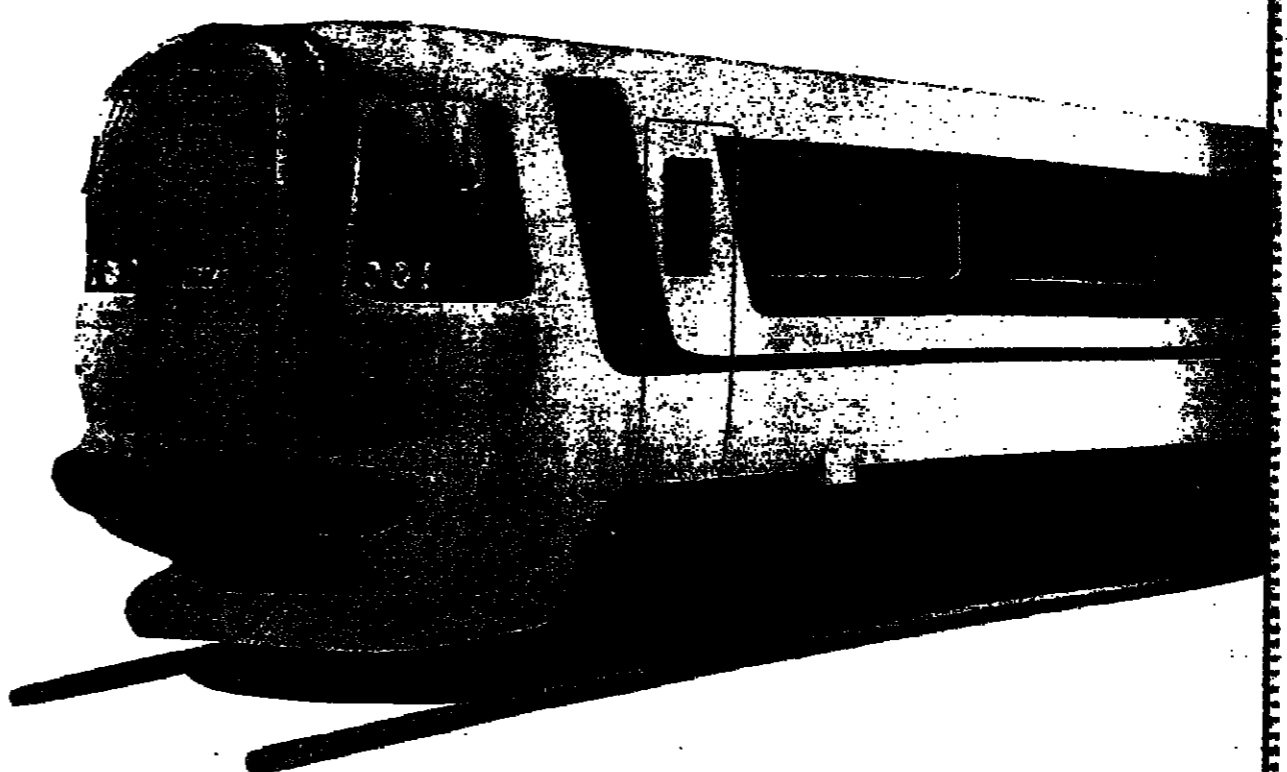
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Network SouthEast

Links forged with Europe

The Chamber of Commerce is not waiting for national direction in the run-up to the single market

Prosperity and prospects for future growth have attracted all kinds of businesses to Southampton. The city has become the retail, industrial and commercial hub of the South, with only heavy industry under-represented in its portfolio.

Leading insurance and financial services have opened branches there, such as Municipal Mutual, Skandia Life and Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the largest chartered accountants and management consultants in the UK. Other business concerns range from the traditional port-based to hi-tech and small business.

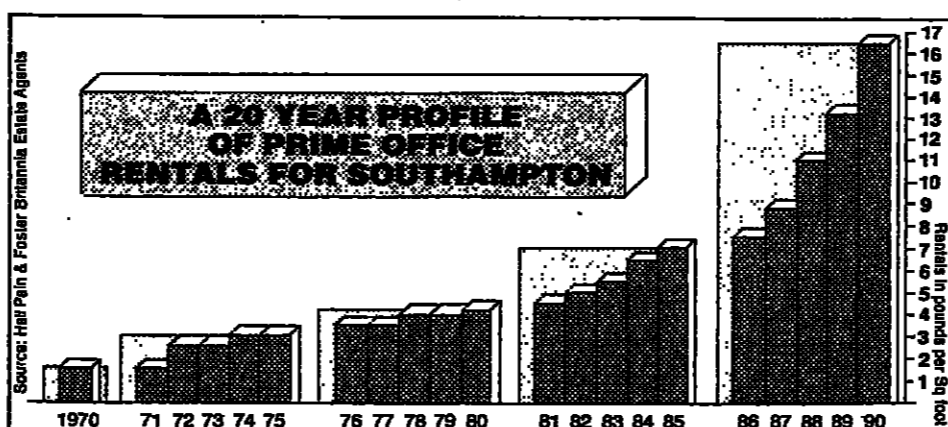
Five out of the more than 300 manufacturing companies in Southampton account for nearly half the workforce. They are: Ford, which produces Transit vans at its Swaythling works; British American Tobacco (BAT); Pirelli, the cable-making firm; Vosper Thornycroft, shipbuilders; and Phillips Components, which produces microchip technology.

The city also provides a home to many other national and international companies, including Exon Chemical, Ordinance Survey, the map makers associated with the city since 1841; Martini and Rossi; and Hovermarine International, a world leader in the production of hovercrafts.

The port was once the largest employer, but now the workforce is not nearly as large. There are many other companies connected with shipping, Cunard and P & O have associations going back into last century. Cunard is celebrating its 150th anniversary and has been given the Freedom of the City.

On the edge of Southampton Water, at Fawley, is the huge Esso refinery, one of the largest oil refining and chemical plants in Europe.

Allied to these are the regional headquarters of banks, foreign firms that have their base there, national multiple and other stores. Southampton's total workforce is 110,000, living either in the city or its surrounding area.



The Chamber of Commerce is currently gearing the city up for 1992. It was formed 140 years ago and has had trading links with France since, an advantage on entering the single market.

The chamber was the first to provide a Euro Desk, a jointly-funded scheme with the Labour council.

It was established two years ago and provides information and free advice to businesses, large or small, about 1992.

Peter Beebe, the director general of the 1,700-member chamber, says: "There is very little central direction at all over the single market and everyone in the UK has to depend on local initiative." The chamber is moving to

join a European Information Centre, which will eventually combine with the Desk. It originated in Brussels and the chamber has matched a £30,000 grant from the EC and added free international banking and legal and accountancy advice from members already in the European market, providing a growing network of support.

Mr Beebe said: "Our aim is to marry up partners on either side of the Channel and it is very much a two-way trade."

The chamber sent out questionnaires to 600 small and medium-size businesses and had an 11 per cent response. Only slightly more than half of the respondents said they had not yet completed plans in

preparation for the single market.

In May the chamber is hosting a seminar, Euro Contact 90. Sir Leon Brittan will be the main speaker and guests will include businessmen from France, West Germany and Spain.

Mr Beebe said: "Firms have heard enough political waffle and what they want now is to meet their counterparts and talk face-to-face with businessmen of like mind."

The seminar is being sponsored partly by the Department of Trade and Industry and partly by businesses, continuing the tradition in Southampton of co-operation between the public and private sectors.

Rich maritime and military history

Southampton has played a major role in Britain's military and maritime history. In 1346, King Edward III and his bowmen left through the Westgate at Southampton for the Battle of Crécy; Henry V and his army embarked for Agincourt in 1415; and centuries later, the armies for the Crimean, Boer and World Wars I and II sailed from the port.

In 1620, The Pilgrim Fathers set sail for America in the Mayflower from Southampton; the Titanic left on its tragic voyage from there in 1912.

In this century, as cargo ships grew larger and the giant liners began to carry more and more people, the port became one of the busiest in the world. A large-scale ship-building industry, still active today, also

began to develop. Southampton had a major role in the growing aircraft industry, which, ironically, was to deprive the city of much of its regular ocean liner traffic. It became a centre for the development of flying boats. But its most important contribution to the aircraft industry has been the Spitfire, designed by one of the city's greatest sons, R. J. Mitchell.

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Walking in the rain: city parks offer year-round enjoyment

Heritage, art on show

History and heritage are everywhere in Southampton. Museums, an art gallery, theatres, and five parks covering 50 acres in the city centre offer the city's 200,000 people a choice of entertainment and relaxation options.

The Bargate, one of the finest town gateways in Britain, is still untouched by enemy hands after 900 years.

The Mayflower Theatre, with 2,250 seats, and the Nuffield Theatre at the university provide Southampton with a choice of theatres.

The city has the biggest office centre and one of the largest retail centres outside London, a leading university, research centres, science park, medical school, regional hos-

pitals and TVS commercial and BBC regional television studios.

There are several top hotels in which to stay and there is a world-wide travel services by sea or air. Air UK and the Netherlands, one of the regional subsidiaries of the Dutch airline, KLM, are two of the links from the rapidly developing airport.

The city is also a centre for tourism, with a range of places to visit within an hour's travelling time. To the west is the New Forest with Beaulieu and the National Motor Museum and villages with traditional pubs. Lymington has narrow streets and a striking harbour. Further on are the seaside towns of Bournemouth and Poole.

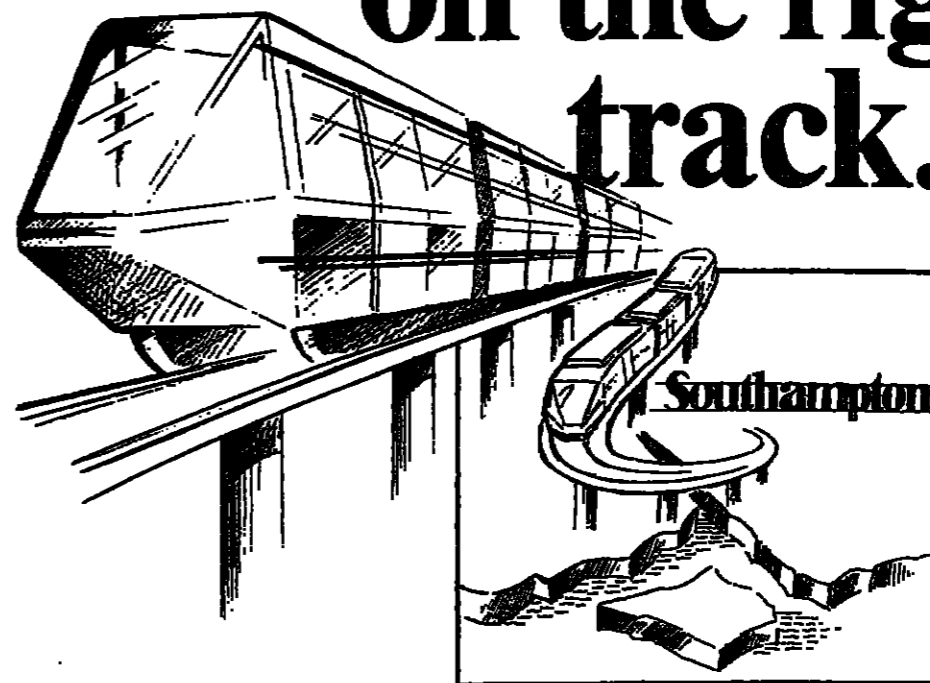
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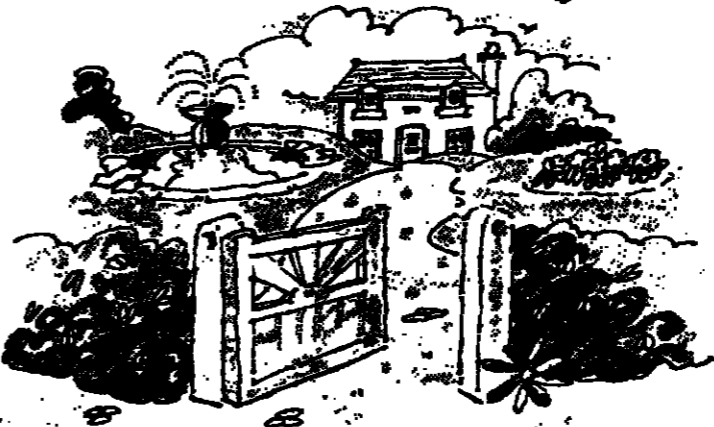
DAVID HART

In the front line of research: Dr Greg Winter and Dr Sally Ward


The DRS, on the other hand, is part of an infrastructure programme that will enable any of the other satellites and spacecraft of ESA or any other organization to provide a more reliable service. The DRS can pick up data from low-flying space vehicles which are not in constant "sight" of a ground station like the ERS 1. Earth-resources satellite, to be launched next year.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Thomson Prentice looks behind the scenes at advances in cardiology for newborn babies

A research project which has been launched in a Leicester hospital offers new hope of saving babies suffering severe respiratory failure, the leading cause of death in newborns.

The project involves a modified version of the heart-lung bypass machine, a device which has already proven its worth in many thousands of transplants and open heart operations.

The modified equipment has helped to save the life of a baby girl, aged two days, who was born suffering from severe breathing problems. She had inhaled meconium, a black sticky substance discharged from her bowels, at around the time of her birth.

The child had stopped breathing when she was admitted to the Groby Road Hospital, Leicester, last week, and would have been declared brain-dead within five minutes. She was transferred to the maternity unit in Peterborough to the hospital because it is developing the use of extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) for such cases.

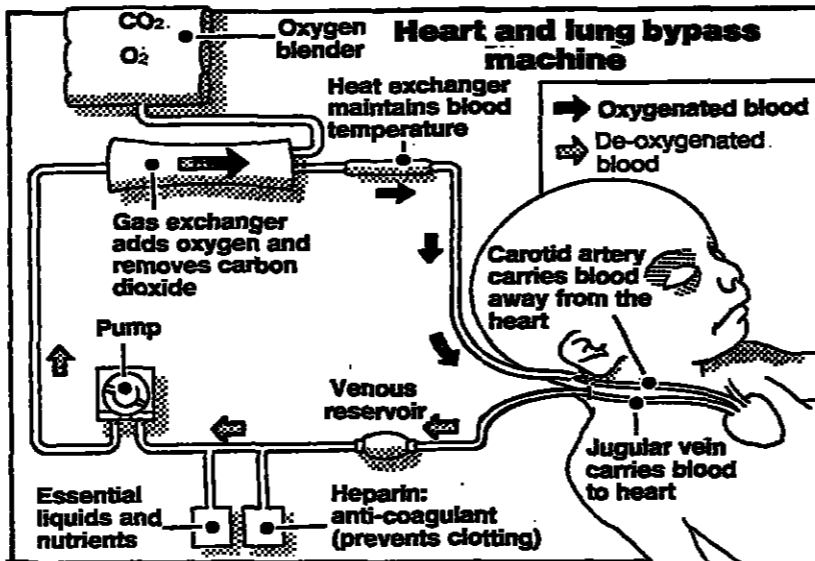
In this procedure, tubes connected to a heart-lung machine are placed in the carotid artery and jugular vein in the neck, through a small incision.

The ECMO circuit withdraws blood from the vein and adds the anti-coagulant heparin to prevent clotting, plus essential liquids and

Small miracles

'Despite significant advances, respiratory failure remains the most frequent cause of death in neonates'

nutrients for the baby. The blood is pumped to a gas exchanger, which removes carbon dioxide and adds oxygen. The blood temperature is maintained at its correct level by a heat exchanger, and the oxygenated blood is reintroduced into the



carotid artery. The function of the failing heart and lungs is thereby supported. The baby was kept on the device for three days to allow her heart and lungs to develop. She is now breathing without assistance, and has been allowed home.

The technique is widely used in the emergency treatment of infants in the United States. More than 3,000 babies have undergone the procedure, with a survival rate of more than 80 per cent. It is now being introduced experi-

mentally in Britain to evaluate its potential. Dr Andrew Fomonowski, a clinical research fellow at the hospital, who performed the operation, said: "Despite significant advances in the care of infants with severe breathing problems, respiratory failure remains the most frequent cause of death in neonates (newborn babies)."

"The ECMO system has been proven to be beneficial in providing temporary life support for a patient with severe heart-lung failure, which cannot be treated by conventional therapy."

"We can consider them as candidates for this technique only if they have an estimated mortality risk of 80 per cent or more, despite maximal ventilatory and medical support." The project, costing more than £100,000, is being funded by the Heart Link Children's Charity.

Mr Steve Bonser, senior chief perfusionist at the hospital, and research associate in charge of ECMO studies at Leicester University, said: "In order to help more babies with respiratory failure, we need early consultation from the paediatric units concerned, to allow us to act quickly to reduce the chances of further lung damage."

One development considered by British and American researchers is a further modification in which the equipment could be connected to the umbilical vein of very premature babies, who cannot get adequate oxygen into their blood.

Brain drain means jobs for British

Hong Kong exodus opens doors for skilled UK computer operators

Hong Kong's brain drain is increasing opportunities for information technology staff in Britain who want to work there as skilled professionals leave the colony before the transfer to China in 1997.

Countries such as Australia and Canada have opened their doors to information technology specialists from the colony, which is leaving firms with major staff shortages.

"Most of the emigrants had the objective of obtaining a passport as an insurance before returning to Hong Kong. As it turned out, only a small number have returned," says Carlyse Tsui, chairman of the British Computer Society's Hong Kong section.

"The brain drain has affected almost every industry and every sector in Hong Kong, but information technology in particular has been seriously affected. Businesses and organizations have increased their use of information technology experts from Britain and elsewhere."

Although local polytechnics and colleges in Hong Kong have developed fast-track courses to train programmers, there are still severe shortages for more experienced information technology staff.

Such people should find no difficulty in landing a short-term contract at good rates, according to Tony Antonides, chairman of the EuroLink Group recruitment agency (0273 292316), which operates in Hong Kong.

"There are a huge number of jobs available. The rates are a lot more than in the United States; for example, an experienced analyst programmer could earn around £1,500 a week," he says.

"But the cost of living is high, as prices for accommodation are fearsome - closer to Tokyo than London."

The majority of vacancies are for programmers for IBM and, to a lesser extent, Digital Equipment systems. Personal computer and Unix operating system skills are also in

demand, as are network and communications analysts.

British information technology experts are also, rightly or not, viewed as being more capable and hence are often favoured over local employees with a similar level of experience.

Senior managers have also left Hong Kong in droves, according to Judy Lan, overseas representative of the Hong Kong Computer Society (01-315 1553).

"A lot of middle management have left a vacuum behind. Although the gap is being filled by promotions from within, it takes time to build up management skills, so there are many vacancies and lots of opportunity for overseas managers. System analysts from Britain can be data processing managers or project leaders in Hong Kong because of the shortage," Miss Lan says.

The society is considering publishing vacancies on an electronic bulletin board so that interested applicants can dial from Britain once they have registered with the group. If demand warrants it, they expect to begin publishing job information from the middle of this year.

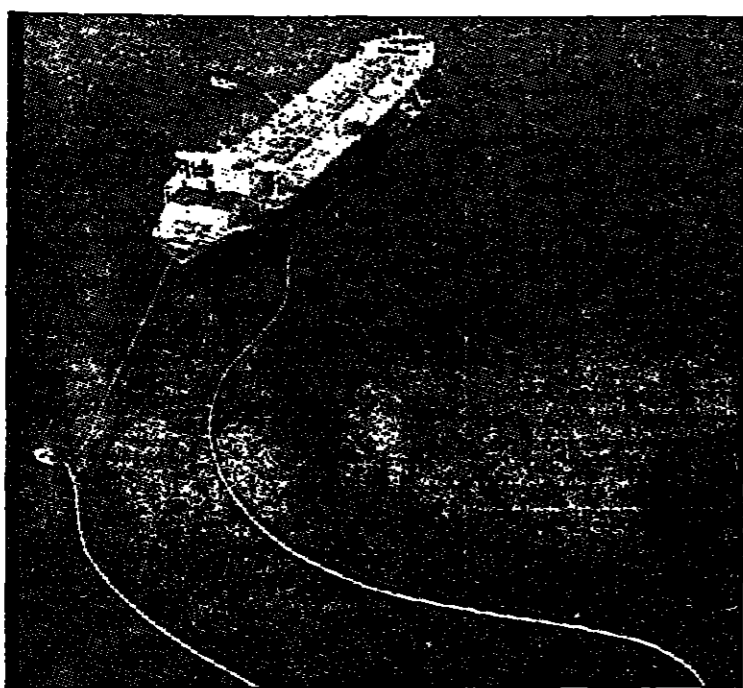
One advantage of working in Hong Kong is that British nationals face no problems with work permits. Most heading for the colony do so on a short-term contract basis.

"Information technology staff usually go to Hong Kong on open-ended contracts at least for two years," Miss Lan says. "Many stay on after the contract ends, or are headhunted by other companies. Property rental is quite high, but still affordable, and should not be a problem."

Leslie Tilley

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Scientists may have got oil spills licked a last



Dissolving pollution: a boom surrounds oil from the Exxon Valdez

A new way of cleaning oil from polluted beaches using a natural compound may be used to try to clear the thousands of tons of oil still in Prince William Sound, in Alaska, a year after the Exxon Valdez tanker disaster.

The method, discovered by scientists from the United States and Britain, has been tested successfully in both countries.

It provides an alternative to spraying man-made chemical dispersants which cause pollution because of their toxicity to wildlife and persistence in nature.

Unlike the synthetic chemical agents used as emulsifiers to disperse oil in sea water, the natural compound is non-toxic and soon degrades.

It is also up to four times more effective in removing oil from beaches than the methods at present being used in Alaska, scientists say. Trials have been conducted on polluted sand, soil, gravel and rocks brought from Prince William Sound and covered with oil that had

Nature comes to the rescue in the big clean-up campaign, reports Pearce Wright

weathered for more than five months and was tar-like in consistency. The oil was removed from the various test materials by spraying them with a substance produced naturally by a soil-borne micro-organism called *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

The trials have been carried out by a team of university and industrial scientists led by Dr Stephen Harvey, of the US Army Chemical Research, Development and Engineering Centre, at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

Their report, published in the journal *BioTechnology*, tells how the natural emulsifier, called EM, was found when investigating strains of microbes known to thrive by feeding on oil which, it was

conjectured, might provide a means of biodegrading oil slicks.

The scientists conclude that in isolated beaches or shallow waters, where spillages present little threat to the ecology, slow removal by microbial degradation may be the best to clear pollution.

They also describe genetically improved micro-organisms that could provide rapid removal of crude oil, but which have never been tested outside the laboratory because of the current debate that has to be resolved concerning the environmental safety of the release of any genetically engineered organisms.

Until now, the major effort by Exxon to wash spilled oil from beaches and rocks has involved high-pressure, warm water jets containing a synthetic surfactant to help dislodge the oil. This has been costly, time-consuming and not very effective. According to the scientists, the released oil also tends to flow back to the sea, shifting the oil klad from the beaches to the sea water.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Continued on page 40

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Lifting the lid off aircraft fatigue

Nearly two years after the disaster which befell Aloha Airlines Flight 243, in which a section of the fuselage was ripped off, airline operators are still searching for a rapid and cost-effective way of screening their ageing fleets.

In a few weeks' time, engineers from the Royal Air Force will test a way of pin-pointing hair-line cracks in aircraft by making them pop under pressure. A successful trial by the RAF could encourage commercial airlines to consider using the system instead of laborious, time-consuming and unreliable visual inspections.

The method, acoustical testing, is to be assessed at Brize Norton in Oxfordshire on one of the RAF's VC-10 airliners, which has seen close to 20 years service.

"We have no specific reason to doubt the integrity of our VC-10s, but we wish to evaluate this promising technology," said Squadron Leader Jerry Odell, head of aircraft integrity monitoring (AIM) at RAF Swanton Morley in Norfolk. He added that following the 1988 Aloha accident, in which the fuselage failure caused the death of a stewardess and injured 69 passengers, doubts had increased over the safe operating lives of airliners.

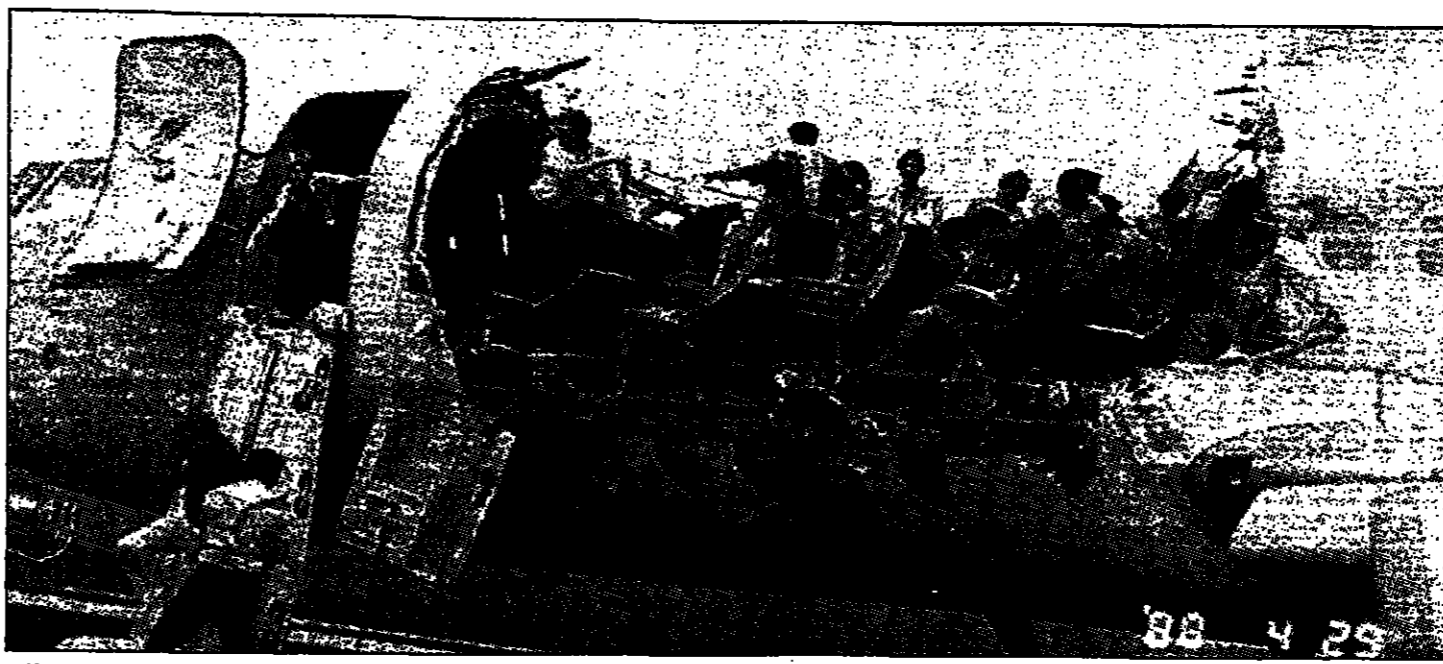
During the trial, 72 "listening" sensors will be fitted to the outer

Nick Nuttall
reports on a new
way of detecting
hairline cracks in
aeroplane parts

skin of the VC10. The engineers will then pressurize the aircraft's interior up to flying pressure as it stands on the ground. Cracks or weaknesses in the fuselage due to corrosion or operational strain emit pops of sound, known as "acoustical events". These are picked up by the sensors and relayed to a computer for analysis. A screen then displays side and top views of the aircraft, with coloured dots denoting the positions of both sensors and suspected cracks. Suspected cracks are also colour-coded to denote the severity of the fatigue or corrosion.

The system has been developed by Physical Acoustics of New Jersey. It is being supplied to the RAF by the company's British subsidiary, Dunegan Pac Ltd of Cambridge.

Acoustical testing has proven invaluable on the ground in screening pipelines and pressurized containers. It is also being used to pin-point fatigue in the



Flashback to April 1988: The Aloha Airlines disaster in which the fuselage was ripped open after being weakened by undetected cracks

United States Air Force's F-111 fighters and parts of the Ariane space launch vehicle.

Yet, despite its advantages, the method has failed to secure enthusiastic backing in America for airlines.

The company believes part of the problem centres on flawed trials 15 years ago, when acousti-

cal testing was only in its infancy.

However, refinements in computer programming and instrumentation have been made which, the company says, now make the system both practical and extremely efficient.

The technique, it is claimed, can locate defects to within a foot.

Rival techniques such as X-

raying and monitoring eddy currents either require a great deal of time and labour or are based on technology more than 30 years old.

Although acoustical testing at present requires skill and training, it is hoped that the process can be automated to such an extent that an unskilled operator could screen

an airliner in just a matter of hours.

"Physical Acoustics has been working with the Federal Aviation Authority, but without much support," Squadron Leader Odell says.

"Rightly or wrongly, we are taking a more positive view of these claims."

Worth a mint

A powerful new insect-repellent has been found in the leaves of a rare and endangered mint plant (*Nick Nuttall writes*). The scientists who discovered the scent claim just a whiff of it can send fleeing some of the most tenacious pests known.

Now they are conducting tests with a laboratory-synthesized version of the odour, which may lead to a powerful non-toxic insect-repellent for agricultural and household use.

The plant, *Dicerandra frutescens*, uses its oil as a defence against voracious pests, the researchers from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, report in *American Journal of Chemecology*.

In tests, ants feeding on sugar scurry for cover when exposed to the plant's broken leaves. The biologists claim that other insects react with equal revulsion.

The oil, which has been named trans-puleol, was discovered by chance at the Archibald Biological Station in Lake Placid, Florida. Cornell University's Dr Thomas Eisner became curious about the intense scent after disturbing leaves. Closer examination revealed they were "remarkably free of insect-inflicted injuries".

Further evidence of the oil's power has been seen from studies of caterpillars. One species has adapted to feed on the plant's leaves without being repelled. They regurgitate the minty meal on to their bodies to ward off foes.

Tell-tale computers

The introduction of software which would allow employers to check on the work rates of their staff when they are using a computer is likely to be restricted. Under proposals from the European Commission, the use of such "spying" programs which could, for example, count the number of keystrokes made every minute by a computer user, would require the approval of the workers before they could be introduced. Other measures planned include hourly breaks for those working with computers and allowing pregnant women to work away from screens without loss of pay. The moves, which are supported by the European Parliament's social affairs committee, would require the approval of national governments, but are expected to get the majority needed to become law.

Regenerate

Scientists have created, under laboratory conditions, a new form of the naturally-occurring chemical that makes human nerves grow. The chemical NT-3 is of particular interest because it has been found, in its natural form, in nerve tissue in the arms, legs, eyes, brain and spinal cord. Two other forms that had been identified and cloned as part of what researchers described as the human nerve growth factor, have been primarily confined to the brain and spinal cord. The team of researchers from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals in New York hope their findings will one day mean that scientists could use NT-3 to help regenerate tissue that has been destroyed.

'Green' police

Forty "green" police took to the streets of Madrid for the first time last week armed with devices to measure noise and smoke pollution. They have the power to impose on-the-spot fines of up to £130 and impound particularly noisy vehicles if their owners insist on not mending them. Madrid's environment agency says noise from half of the capital's streets exceed the acceptable 70-decibel limit.

Cool cruising

Engineers have built what they believe is the first example of an electric motor using a coil made of superconducting ceramic. Three years ago, several ceramic compounds were discovered which were found to work as high-temperature superconductors. They could conduct electricity without loss of resistance and, unlike traditional metal superconductors, would not have to be cooled to an operating temperature of just above absolute zero. High-temperature superconducting motors could potentially be more efficient, one-third the weight

Project fail-safe

British Telecom is to supply local authorities with £5 million-worth of steel-encased digital switchboards designed to operate after a nuclear explosion or other disasters, such as a hurricane or floods. The equipment, which has its own power supply, is already used by the Home Office and emergency organizations and will now be installed in 300 local authority emergency centres around the country. Part of the requirement for the contract, which BT won from eight other companies, was that the equipment had to withstand the electromagnetic pulse which follows a nuclear explosion.

Ozone warning

Ozone may be in short supply in the upper atmosphere, but too much of it in the office or home can irritate the eyes, nose or throat and cause breathing problems. Along with photocopiers, another cause of extra ozone is the laser printer. As prices fall, sales are booming and manufacturers of laser printers, well aware of the potential problem with ozone, build filters into their products. But these are often inadequate or infrequently changed, according to Steen Christensen, managing director of London based Incotel, which has started importing a special £300 filter unit from Denmark which sits under the laser printer and promises to remove the ozone more efficiently. Manufacturers deny their filters are not good enough, but it has not stopped more than 10,000 of the add-on units being sold to Danish offices.

Fabulous fibre

Two studies into the ability of water-soluble fibre to lower cholesterol levels have concluded that it can have beneficial effects. In one of the studies, conducted by Dr Elcanor Levin at the George Washington University Medical Centre in Washington, found that a twice-daily dose of the laxative Metamucil, which is made from psyllium, appears to lower blood cholesterol levels by about 5 per cent, even when people are already on low-fat diets. While the improvement was modest, it might be enough to bring some people's cholesterol back inside the safe range. Another recent study reported that patients with a much higher intake of fat showed a greater reduction in their cholesterol levels after taking powdered psyllium.

Matthew May



Advancing the skill of communications shouldn't take years.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Juggling with nature

Genetically engineered plants and crops may become the new cash crop.

David Rudnick describes the research

Companies are racing to be the first to win part of the food market with genetically engineered plants and crops. The first varieties are likely to appear on supermarket shelves in Europe and the United States before the end of the year.

Scientists are also inserting human genes into plants, turning the plants into miniature factories that can produce large quantities of useful human proteins. They have grown tobacco plants that produce antibodies, potatoes that make serum albumin, a human blood protein used in surgery, and rape plants that make enkephalin, a painkiller produced in the brain.

A California biotechnology company plans to market a sun screen containing human melanin, a natural skin pigment, grown in a tobacco plant. The researchers hope to use plants to make human hormones, growth factors, enzymes and immune system cells.

Although many scientists applaud such experiments, critics say they involve risks. But it is genetic engineering in plant biology, where genes are transferred between different species to improve crop yields, that is nearest commercial application.

The thrust for the research originally came from a desire to produce plants more resistant to insect pests, fungi and herbicides. The financial attraction is clear: more than £6 billion a year is spent world-wide on pesticides to control herbivorous insects. Pesticides, moreover, are not only an economic drain but an environmental hazard with the danger of secondary poisoning. Their use can be avoided if plants can be armed with their own biological defences, by implanting foreign

genes that produce proteins toxic to insect larvae.

Biologists got the idea from watching a natural organism called *agrobacterium tumefaciens*, which for millennia has been infecting injured plants and transforming them genetically for its own biological purposes. Researchers at companies involved in agro-technology such as the US company, Monsanto, and Plant Genetic Systems in Belgium, are successfully adapting the methods of this little natural genetic engineer to kill insect larvae that prey on crops, using tobacco and tomato as models.

Professor Donald Boulter, of Durham University's department of biology, has learned a lesson from nature which has led to a slightly different technique. He has observed that many plants have for long protected themselves from insects by secreting enzyme inhibitors.

Professor Boulter said: "When larvae ingest leaves containing them, they are unable to digest. Ultimately, they starve to death." He isolated the gene encoding the inhibitor of trypsin, which enables insects to break down protein; he put it into tobacco plants and effectively protected them from their enemy, the budworm.

Tobacco was chosen because it happens to offer a convenient research model because it is easy to grow and has a large visible leaf

area that facilitates monitoring. Similarly, Professor Boulter has taken the enzyme-inhibiting gene from cowpeas — the black-eyed African bean — and transferred it to potatoes. Whereas manufactured pesticides attack any and every insect, these genetically induced insecticides single out only the plant's enemies.

This "substitution technology" is being licensed and developed for industry by the Agricultural Genetics Company (AGC) at Cambridge Science Park. Dr Peter Innes, director of technology transfer, says the crops mainly targeted for transgenic action are cotton, wheat and rice.

The potential savings for cotton growers are particularly striking. In the Mississippi delta states, they sometimes spray insecticide up to 15 times a year, so if transgenically treated plants can reduce this operation by even half, the price of the seed would be more than offset by savings in chemical pesticide and the cost of application.

Dr Innes says they work on a three-to-one cost-benefit ratio in favour of the cotton grower: every dollar he or she spends, AGC likes to think, will save him three.

AGC has licensed Professor Boulter's trypsin-inhibiting gene to a US company, Calgene, to protect cotton. Another American company, Biotechnology Agriculture, is working on it to protect maize. In Europe, the Nickerson International Seed Company has

been licensed to introduce the gene into potatoes.

Researchers at Nottingham University, led by Professor Donald Grierson, are engaged on a joint project with ICI Seeds to alter the genetic structure of the tomato. They are developing tomatoes that ripen without going soft, by suppressing the enzyme that induces softening during the ripening process.

Large-scale commercial application of transgenic plants could be imminent. Two American companies, Advanced Polymer Systems and Biosource Genetics, are getting together to produce new suntan lotions based on melanin (the skin darkening agent) made from transgenic plants.

In the medium to long term, the new technology opens up a vista of intriguing possibilities. Professor Boulter is confident that by the year 2000 most, if not all cereal crop plants will be amenable to genetic transformation.

At Imperial College, London, Prof Kenneth Buck and Robert Hayes, a researcher, want to look into transgenic plants being used as a source of insulin. Professor Buck said: "Extracting it from plants would cut its production cost because it would obviate the need for fermenters used to treat insulin extracted from yeast or bacteria."

He believes genetic engineering could eventually increase plants' comparatively low photosynthetic efficiency and thus make food crops grow faster. It could also lead to the evolution of drought-resistant desert crops able to withstand extreme desiccation, something of crucial concern to the famine-hit regions of Africa.



Finding plant's secret defences: Professor Donald Boulter of Durham University's biology department

Billion-pound battle to win over the whiz-kids

Geof Wheelwright on the resurgence of home video games

The video game industry is back in business. After lean times throughout the latter half of the 1980s, during which home video game systems were regarded by many simply as home computer systems which could not compute, video game companies such as Atari and Nintendo are enjoying a major comeback.

More than one in five homes in the United States now has a Nintendo games machine, and in Japan, where the proportion is even higher, there have been reports of huge queues, and even fights, when

new games cartridges for Nintendo machines go on sale.

Next month Atari will try to persuade British fans that they are missing out on this new craze when it begins selling a £180 portable games machine here.

The machine, the Lynx, went on sale in the US last November and sold out before Christmas. Some unofficially imported machines have already been on sale in London electronics shops, but for £250.

So why the attraction? For a start, the Lynx provides a colour liquid crystal display (LCD) screen. And this is real colour, using the technology employed in hand-held colour LCD televisions, which provides a picture quality comparable to some video arcade games.

Atari has added a few other features to the Lynx that it hopes will appeal to young hearts and minds. The package includes a connector

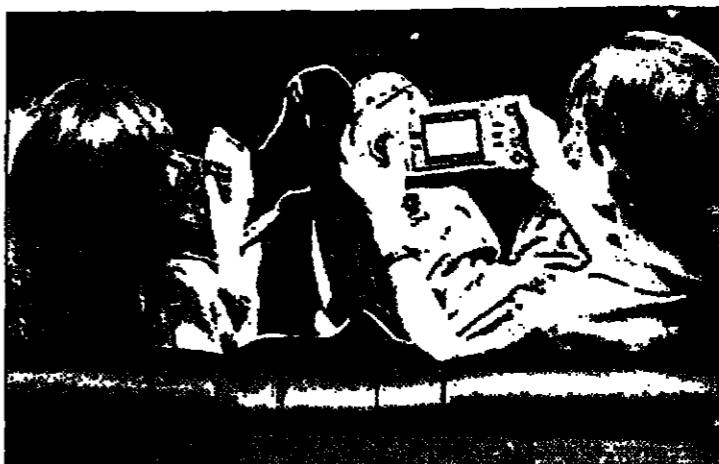
to allow up to 16 different Lynx machines to be joined together so that players of adventure games, for example, will be able to team up and wander in and out of one another's screens.

It also provides a plug-in for stereo headphones and offers a facility which will flip the screen 180 degrees, so that the eight-way controllers positioned on either side of the screen can be used by left-handed or right-handed players, or

for games that can be played by two people. The package comes with four games, although when children tire of them, their parents are likely to have to pay £20 to £30 for new ones.

In the US alone last year, Nintendo, the video game industry leader, saw its business grow by some 28.6 per cent to \$2.43 billion, according to figures released at the New York Toy Fair in February.

However, by the end of 1990, industry experts say, the industry is expected to be worth about \$3.4 billion.



Fun and games: playing with Lynx in the back seat of the car

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Institute of Terrestrial Ecology (South)
HEAD OF BANGOR
RESEARCH UNIT

up to £30,000

Applications are invited for the Head of the Bangor Research Unit. The successful applicant will be expected to maintain high standards in his/her personal research and in the scientific programme in the Unit. Existing research is focused on montane ecology, biogeochemistry and ecosystem responses to pollution. The Unit has recently moved to new accommodation at University College North Wales (Bangor) and new collaborative initiatives are being developed in upland ecology and arid zone studies. The Unit Head will be responsible for management of staff and facilities, scientific leadership, relations with UCNW, collaboration with external customers and the expansion development of scientific programmes. The postholder will be responsible to the Director of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology (South).

Applicants should have significant research experience in terrestrial ecology and experience in management. Starting salary will be in the scale of £23,039 to £30,001 per annum according to experience. Higher pay may be available under performance related pay arrangements up to a maximum of £35,436 per annum.

A non contributory pension scheme is available, along with generous annual leave allowance. Assistance towards relocation expenses may be payable in certain circumstances.

The Institute of Terrestrial Ecology (South) is a component body of the Natural Environment Research Council.

Application forms can be obtained from June Shields, Personnel Section, Natural Environment Research Council, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, Wilts SN2 1EU. Telephone 0793 411695. Completed forms including a full CV to be returned by 12th April 1990.

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Information packs and application forms can be obtained by telephoning the Personnel Section on 0842 246045 — direct line.

The closing date for return of completed applications is Friday, 6th April, 1990. Interviews will be held on 28th April, 1990.

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Informal enquiries about the posts may be made to Mr J R Hartley (tel 0532 334622).

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from, and completed applications returned to, the Registrar, The University, Leeds LS2 9JT (tel 0532 333989), quoting Reference No 28/128. Closing date for applications April 15, 1990.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

New weapons against congestion on London's road system are assessed by Matthew May

New roads are no longer seen as an answer to London's traffic problems. Other ways of controlling the movement of vehicles around the capital must be found if forecasts for traffic growth — and with it even-worsening jams — are correct. This is the implication from the Government's announcement this week that it is to scrap the £2 billion package of new road schemes proposed for London and replace it with a more modest £250 million set of road improvements.

The decision gives further ammunition to those transport experts who believe the answer is in road pricing. In particular, many argue, it is the latest systems based on electronic monitoring that will become the solution to urban congestion.

Several different types of electronic road pricing, or ERP, systems have already been developed. All involve fitting to vehicles an electronic device that identifies them as they drive past roadside beacons or sensory wires inserted just below the road surface. The device then charges drivers for using certain roads at certain times. The aim is to discourage traffic from congested areas or at peak times.

Road pricing to ease urban congestion is not new. It has been in use for more than 15 years in Singapore, where drivers entering the central business district during peak hours must buy and display a supplementary licence ticket. As with the display of British road tax discs on the windscreen, it is an offence to be in the area during peak hours without one.

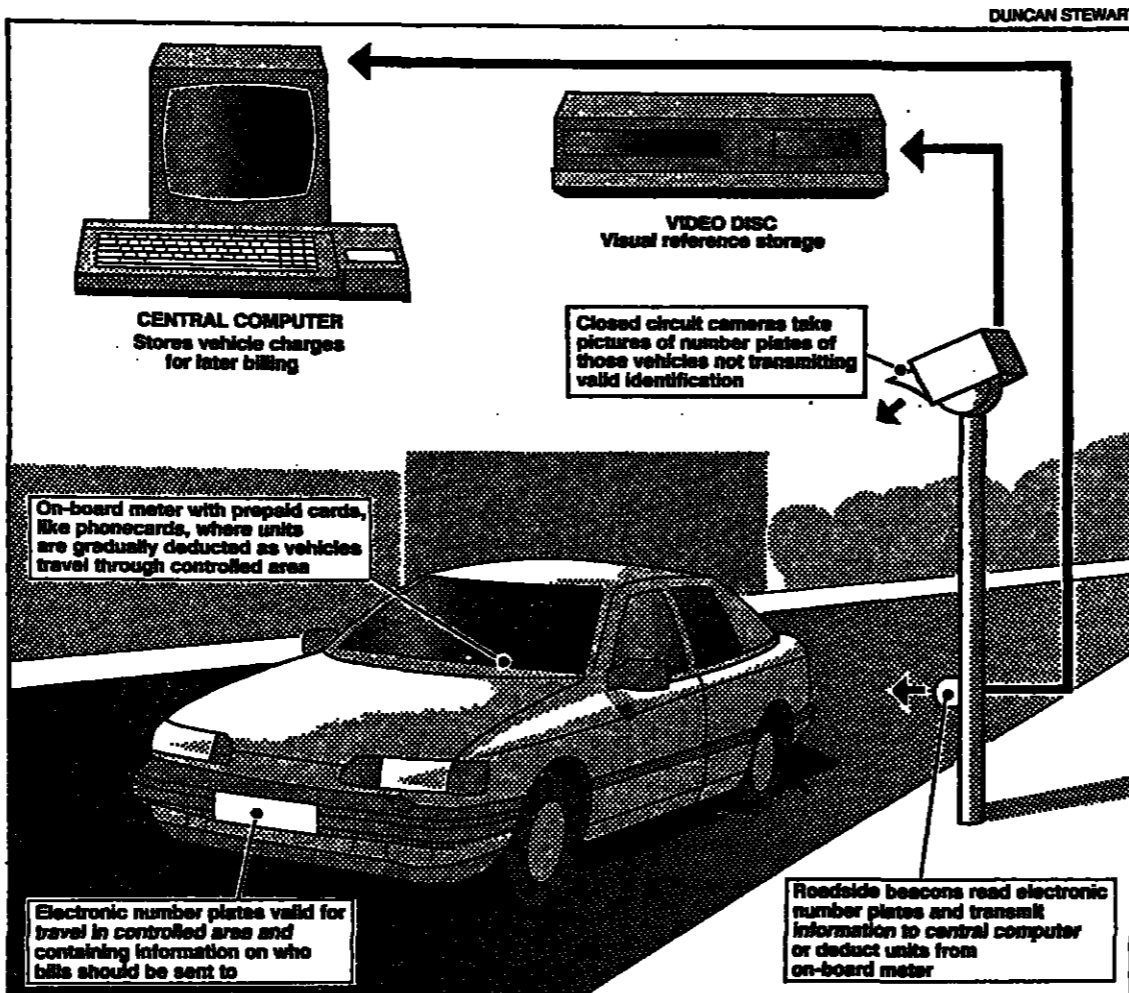
Although such a simple solution, with its single entry fee and no need for hi-tech electronics, has attractions, ERP advocates believe it is unsuitable for the complexity of British city centres and their traffic flows. Here a variable charging method that can be related to the distance travelled and the degree of congestion is seen as necessary.

Critics say the technology behind ERP has yet to be proved on any large scale and that it is difficult to enforce road pricing. Civil liberties groups are worried about the ability of some systems to provide a computer record of vehicles' movements; others say it would discriminate unfairly against the low-income car-owner, who could not afford the charges.

But a Chartered Institute of Transport report published last week warns that traffic will double in the next 35 years and that ERP is the "one effective possibility" if much worse traffic congestion is to be avoided.

It urges the Government to prepare a timetable for the intro-

Electronic routes to stop the jams



duction of ERP in London by the mid-1990s. It is not merely recommending a plan based on a small area of central London but an ambitious project that would cover the whole of London out to and including the M25. The proposal would cost hundreds of millions of pounds and five or six million motorists would have to fit electronic devices to their cars. Motorists would have to accept an average charge of £3.50 for a trip into central London, although travel within the outer suburbs would be free or charged at a low rate.

The report, "Paying for Progress", says charges for a typical return journey around London

would be about 50p — equivalent to about £8 a week for an average household — although this could be halved by the "careful timing of journeys and using public transport for peak journeys in congested corridors".

In the past few years, the technology that would be required for such a system has developed considerably, but it is debatable whether it could handle a scheme covering the whole of London.

An ERP test was conducted in Hong Kong in 1985 when 2,600 vehicles were fitted with electronic meters that clocked up charges as they passed over wires in the road. Toll charges, which varied with the

time of day or the level of congestion, were displayed on roadside boards. The experiment showed that an ERP system can work, at least on a small scale, but it was not introduced, largely because of concern over civil liberties.

The institute points to two basic options for its ERP scheme. The first consists of systems that identify a vehicle and record where it goes and for how long when in a controlled area. Charges are worked out on a central computer and an invoice, much like a telephone bill, is sent to the driver's office or home.

Drivers would have to fit an electronic number plate — it should cost no more than £30 to produce

the institute says — that would be read by roadside beacons. The system would also be linked to closed-circuit cameras that would photograph the number plates of vehicles not displaying the correct electronic tag for possible prosecution. That technology is already in limited use to catch drivers who jump traffic lights.

A second system would require vehicles to have more expensive meters fitted inside, costing nearer £100 each, and would use prepaid electronic cards, like British Telecom phonecards.

As the vehicle is driven through controlled areas, roadside beacons again send signals that electronically deduct units from the card.

Preventing motorists evading ERP charges is vital if any scheme is to succeed. Enforcement has to be much stricter than, for example, under the parking ticket system.

In terms of today's technology, the institute says, the number plate system that bills users later is considered more difficult to beat than the in-vehicle meters that use prepaid cards. But that system has its own weakness in that, by definition, it provides a computer record of who was driving where and when. And it could be used to track vehicle movements. The institute suggests the use of some sort of a numbered bank account system so that the authorities could collect the charges without directly identifying the owner of the vehicle.

Both systems have a difficulty in allowing access to occasional visitors from outside the area who would be unwilling to invest in the equipment for infrequent use. And some of their journeys may even be considered by the authorities to be desirable. The institute suggests that garages or other retail outlets could let motorists for hire to infrequent users.

Any large ERP scheme, such as the institute's plan, that would compulsorily affect millions of motorists rather than just those wanting to drive into a small central part of a city would be politically unpopular, to put it mildly, with those voters affected.

This, and the fact that any authority would be much more confident of the technology working over a small central area, mean that any introduction of ERP is likely to be on a much smaller scale than that envisaged by the institute.

ERP does, however, have one distinct consolation for any government. Unlike the building of new roads, the system, even with initial costs, has the potential of increasing, rather than reducing, the government coffers by hundreds of millions of pounds.

SCIENCE REPORT

How cells fool cancer drug

Out of mice and marrow comes a new hope for treatment

A team of British researchers led by Dr Ian Pragnell, of Glasgow University, has discovered a substance, produced naturally by the bone marrow, that could improve cancer chemotherapy.

The new research, supported by a grant from the Cancer Research Campaign, is published in today's issue of *Nature* (vol 344, pp 442-444).

Cancer cells divide much more quickly than normal ones and spread to other tissues in the body. Chemotherapy drugs work by

preferentially killing cells that are dividing rapidly, but apart from that, they do not discriminate between genuine cancer cells and those types of normal, healthy cell for which rapid division is a matter of course. So cancer patients can have only so much chemotherapy before experiencing side-effects such as

thirstiness and nausea. Dr Pragnell and his colleagues hope that the substance, called SCI (for "stem-cell inhibitory factor"), will stop the rapid division of normal cells in the blood, protecting them from cell-killing chemotherapy drugs.

With SCI, patients could receive higher drug doses without side-effects. And the signs are that SCI has only a short-term effect. After it wears off, the normal cells can start dividing again. Patients would, therefore, recover more quickly from chemotherapy.

Blood cells come in all shapes and sizes, from the large white cells that protect the body against disease to the small red cells that shuttle oxygen to all parts of the body.

However, they all de-

scend from a single cell type, called "stem" cells, found in the bone marrow. Stem cells continually divide to make either more stem cells or other kinds of blood cell. In SCI, Dr Pragnell and his colleagues have found a substance in mouse bone marrow that stops stem cells dividing.

What controls the growth and division of stem cells — and the proliferation of other cell types — is unclear. In an experiment to find out, the researchers discovered that mouse stem cells in the laboratory stopped dividing

when white blood cells of a certain type (macrophages) were added to the culture. One particular substance in the macrophages was responsible for this effect — the substance the researchers later isolated and named SCI. The crucial test came when SCI was removed from the cells, allowing the stem cells to

start dividing again. The researchers now intend to test their idea that SCI would stop the stem cells in cancer patients from growing, so "hiding" them from chemotherapy drugs.

This would open the way to more aggressive chemotherapy treatments that would leave the stem cells — and, by implication, the rest of the blood system — unharmed. Because SCI is naturally produced by the bone marrow, it is unlikely to have unforeseen and unpleasant side-effects, unlike man-made chemotherapy drugs. But whether SCI is as effective in living humans as it is in cultured mouse cells remains to be seen.

Maxine Clarke

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CAN YOU FILL IN THE GAPS
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OUR I.T. STRATEGY

Built around the Council's unique structure which organises all of its services in seven autonomous Neighbourhoods, our strategy is as ambitious as anything being pursued in local government. The technology is at the leading edge and we are installing a network of IBM AS400s — one in each Neighbourhood and one for the central departments. We need staff to work on priority applications, e.g. Social Services, Housing Repairs, Personnel, to work in our project office co-ordinating the Strategy and to lead or assist in the setting up of a help desk service — up to £20,000.

Resources are not just required for the central I.T. group. Our Neighbourhoods also need Systems Administrators for the new AS400s. We need a number of staff to run the AS400 on a day-to-day basis. This will be an excellent training ground for a career in I.T. — up to £15,000.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Technical support is critical to the success of all our I.T. projects and we have a separate team specialising in network management, telecommunications, security and data protection. We need people keen to learn the technical aspects of I.T. or with considerable experience in running networks or leading on telecommunication projects — up to £20,000.

MICRO APPLICATIONS

Micro applications form another important arm in the overall development of Information Technology both in the Neighbourhoods and the Centre with a user base in excess of 500. Tower Hamlets has standardised on IBM hardware and the following software: DW4, SC5, d Base, Clipper and Pagemaker. We need people with a proven track record in applications development and support. Experience in Novell networks and PC based project management would also be useful — up to £20,000.

DIRECT LABOUR SYSTEM

In parallel with these developments, the Council is also implementing a discrete BULL direct labour system. This is seen as crucial to the long term survival of our direct labour organisation and its successful introduction is of the highest priority. We need someone to run the new system and more junior staff to assist in the on-going development — up to £20,000.

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TRAINING/MANAGING THE CHANGE

All of the above are underpinned and supported by training both for the user and management. It has a high profile and is seen as essential to effective implementation in every area. In keeping with our commitment to training, this team needs more resources. You could be a trainer interested in I.T. or an I.T. specialist interested in training — up to £20,000.

Clearly, we are looking for a wide range of individuals: this could therefore be your first venture into I.T., or it could be your opportunity to lead a team developing a major application on our AS400s. The implementation of our strategy requires individuals of the highest calibre both in the central group and the Neighbourhood teams.

If you have the necessary skills and experience, or simply an interest, in any of the above, we would like to hear from you. We are strongly committed to the personal and technical development of our staff and will make a major commitment to improving your skills and broadening your experience. As you can see, salaries range from £10,000 to £20,000 plus a competitive benefits package. A full information pack including job descriptions, person specifications and full details about our I.T. initiatives is available from Personnel Reception, Town Hall, Patriot Square, London E2 9LN, or telephone: 01-980 4831 ext 5218.

Furthermore if you wish to discuss any of the above posts or what is going on in I.T. in Tower Hamlets, please ring John Tipping on extension 5263.

Tower Hamlets

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Breeding grounds for national teams may lose their status as paymasters reassert claims

Profit-motive again rears ugly head

Sebastian Coe, the double Olympic 1,500 metres champion and Conservative parliamentary candidate for Falmouth and Camborne, examines the threat to Britain's centres of excellence.

The memory can be a time machine. A word, a story, can catapult you back to a previous episode in your life. And the recollection can be vivid. The other day, I found myself back in 1987, in the midst of one of the biggest stunts in my time as vice-chairman of the Sports Council.

It was over a thing called the National Centres Review. It sounds innocuous. But it was a Great Affair: the world of sport was up in arms; strong language was in the air.

That review was perceived as the sporting Sale of the Century. It was based on a consultant's report recommending that our national sports centres should be switched from their purpose of excellence to money-making.

The metaphors abounded — many of them mixed. Sport's heritage was being sold down the river, we were told. I can say, with only a trace of sarcasm, that I was on the side of the angels, from the beginning, but, as vice-chairman, I had to keep my counsel for a long time. I recalled last week the then director-general saying what an excellent report the consultants had submitted. That was not my view, from the first, horrified, read. The Council agreed to consult widely, and battle was joined.

Well, we won; or, I thought we did. Then, last week, I heard that the 1987 victory for excellence in British sport was in danger of being lost. The news — again! — is that the national sports centres are to be "privatized". Once again, the family silver appears to be up for grabs.

National sports centres are part of our sporting heritage. They are for our elite sportsmen and women, primarily, at regional and national level. The theory is that such centres have the best facilities for particular sports (allied to security, peace and quiet) and thus provide precious opportunities for top-level training and practice.

These centres are places where coaches can get teams and individuals together and work on technique, tactics, teamwork, co-ordination, and so on. At Bisham Abbey, near Marlow in Buckinghamshire, Bobby Robson works out with his England football squad before matches and tournaments. The Great Britain and England hockey teams also



Best in Europe: the artificial white water slalom course at the national water sports centre at Holme Pierrepont, near Nottingham

train there; it has the largest artificial surface in Europe. It is also a centre for weightlifting, and for tennis. Our junior tennis school — the nation's hope for a future Wimbledon champion — is based at Bisham.

Crystal Palace contains our most important athletics stadium. It is also a centre for swimming, diving, lacrosse and basketball.

Lilleshall, near Newport in Shropshire, is the home of the Football Association's School of Excellence. It is now our gymnastics headquarters and boasts the best indoor facility for that sport in Europe. It, too, is a major centre for hockey; there is a cricket school;

and it houses our most up-to-date treatment and diagnostic centre for sports injuries. The list of famous competitors treated here in the last three or four years is already endless, such is its reputation.

The other two centres are Holme Pierrepont, near Nottingham, the national water sports centre, boasting in particular the wonderful canoe slalom course, the best artificial course in Europe, and Plas y Brenin, in Wales, the national centre for mountain activities; from the "Brenin", you can climb the rocks and peaks nearby with expert instructors.

What is their contribution to British sport? How vital are they?

Those were the questions we examined in the thorough review in 1987. And we asked everyone with an interest what they thought. Our starting point, the consultants' report, had been commissioned under some pressure from our paymasters in the Department of the Environment (DoE) to see if there were ways of cutting the annual deficit funding for the centres.

It was this report that caused the outrage throughout sport. Among its recommendations was one for turning Crystal Palace into a theme park, and it mentioned the possibility of icing over the swimming pool, the pride of the Amateur Swimming Association. A

country club was suggested for Bisham Abbey.

The report concluded that the centres could not pay their way, so long as they were used for excellence. Lots more customers had to be sought, paying lots more money. The excellence aim had to go.

The response of the governing bodies was fierce and unanimous. Bodies like the ASA, the FA, the Amateur Athletic Association, the Hockey Association, the weightlifters and many, many more pointed out that developing the top people in any sport — the shop window — required facilities and opportunities. Excellence required investment. These centres

were a vital part of that investment. Indeed, they had been given in trust to the Sports Council by the Central Council of Physical Recreation. This latter body was galvanized into running a major campaign to stop the Sports Council selling off the centres.

After a lengthy consultation process, the Sports Council reaffirmed its faith in, and commitment to, the national sports centres at Crystal Palace, Bisham Abbey, Lilleshall, Holme Pierrepont and Plas y Brenin. Only one, Cowes, the then national sailing centre, was judged not to justify the continued investment required for excellence, so this was sold, but even then we made sure that it continued to be used as a sailing centre, in the Isle of Wight. This conclusion was agreed with the governing body of the sport.

Sighs of relief all round: our heritage was saved. The future of excellence was safe. That decision by the Sports Council was one of the most popular I can remember. It was one that united all the main bodies in British sport. And unity was not one of our special subjects.

But... I write this because I hear that the tender documents are shortly to go out from the Sports Council seeking tenders to run the centres. Apparently, their future role is back in the melting pot... or is it the fiery furnace?

Why? There is no legal requirement for the Sports Council to change a vital policy made, not that long ago, after full debate and consultation. Competitive tendering is mandatory only for local authority sport and leisure centres, and they are very different animals.

There are hundreds of them and it is reasonable to try to ensure that they are run as near to a profit as possible. The national centres cannot be compared in any way with local authority sports centres. There are but five, and they are dedicated to the top level of sport and to our national and international performance. They are dedicated to the pursuit of excellence.

Presumably, the Sports Council feels under pressure from its DoE paymasters again. But why can it not explain what was decided in 1987? Why can it not talk the language of excellence?

I fear that this old language may itself be under threat.

TOMORROW

Sebastian Coe on the future of the national sports centres.

BOXING

Laing is in line for European contest

By Srikanth Sen
Boxing Correspondent

KIRKLAND Laing, the Nottinghamshire welterweight, remains an enigma. He is the most exciting boxer in Britain yet cannot fill a big London hall.

He has beaten the great Roberto Duran yet lost to an American journeyman, Buck Smith. He should have won the world title before Lloyd Honeyghan yet is still struggling to lift the European.

While he satisfied his supporters with a classic Laing display of exonerating, when stopping Trevor Smith, of Harlow, in six rounds to retain his British title at Grosvenor House on Tuesday, experts are not entirely convinced that, at the age of 35, he can take on men like Mark Breland and Marion Starling.

His manager, Mickey Duff, has already had talks with the French promoters, the Acaries brothers, for a European title bout with Antoine Fernandez, of France. "It's been agreed the fight will be where it is financially most sensible," Duff said. "And I don't see why it shouldn't be London."

That is likely to be in late summer. But before that, Laing wants to avenge the defeat by Buck Smith. Last January, the unranked American knocked Laing out in seven rounds when, according to Laing, he was applauded back to his dressing-room.

Even those who dislike the champion's arrogant manner were saying: "What can you say? He tears up the textbook but gets the job done."

Duff, who has seen Laing in all his moods over the last 15 years, said: "He is the greatest living miracle in boxing. He believes his physical strength by 25 years; his mental age by 15."

"If he gets a good wallop on the chin he goes down, but then how many people can give him a good wallop on the chin?"

Chris Eubank, the unbeaten Brighton middleweight, will defend his World Boxing Council international title against Sandrine Williams, of the United States, at the Brighton Centre on April 25.

SNOOKER

Taylor's chance to silence Higgins

By Steve Acteson

THORNTON last night set up one of the biggest grudge matches in snooker when he defeated Cliff Thorburn, of Canada, 3-1 in the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley. Tomorrow he will play Alex Higgins, the champion in the quarter-finals.

It has been well documented that there is little love between Taylor and Higgins. The two players have been at each other's throats since Taylor's World Cup final, threatened to have Taylor shot, and returned to Northumberland.

Johnson in the Dublin area is Higgins has given two far from pleasant interviews in which he has said that he will not have the courtesy of support on his side.

Even though Thorburn has a dismal record, he still added the fight to his opponent's total disregard of the side issue. But Taylor eventually won his resistance with two frames to spare in the eighth frame.

Johnson won the first frame on an easy pink, but

A chilling experience at all-seat Wembley

From Mr Ian Guyter

Sir, Anyone who believes that all-seat stadiums are the answer to the problems that have dogged football for far too long and who also believe that in some miraculous way the problem of hooliganism, violence and intimidation have been controlled should have been at Wembley Stadium for the Zenith Data Systems Cup final between Chelsea and Middlesbrough last Sunday.

I cannot recall, in more than 30 years of going to football, a more miserable and depressing experience. Leaving and the appalling outdated facilities that exist at Wembley, the whole atmosphere was almost like a war situation. The aggression, language and the sheer violence for the sake of it both inside and outside the stadium was for me a chilling experience, only redeemed by the fact that fortune-

nately I did not bring my wife or children to the game. This however could not be said for a number of people who were sitting in what were expressed to be the most expensive seats at £20 each and who were surrounded by people, I use the phrase loosely, whose whole ambition, in terms of the match, was simply to abuse the Middlesbrough supporters in the most appalling fashion. Throughout in particular the second half, with their language, Nazi-style salutes and appalling racism they were seemingly bent on causing as much mayhem as possible. Despite this going on in the presence of several police officers nothing was done and in the end both myself and a large number of people near me were so weakened by the constant and abusive behaviour of the crowd that it was a relief to get out of the stadium.

If anyone believes that, on the basis of what I saw, there is any prospect of the World Cup finals in Italy being trouble-free then they are not living in the real world.

Yours truly,
I. GUYTER
Mr Guyter & Co. (Solicitors),
Edinburgh House,
40 Great Portland Street, W1.

Price of notoriety

From Sir Arthur Gold
Sir, Mrs Davison (Sports Letters, March 22) did not apparently read beyond the headline on John Woolley's report (March 17), referring to drug abuse and Ben Johnson. Nowhere in the report does the word "doping" appear.

I emphasised that the ultimate aim of "doping controls" was not to detect and penalise those caught cheating but to protect the majority who do not cheat and that the latter, in turn, could assist in protecting themselves.

For example, it had been reported that Ben Johnson was being offered vast sums of money by private promoters to run in specially staged spectacles to be held within a few days of his two-year suspension expiring. Rumour has it that the price of notoriety is at least twenty times the price of fame.

I then went on to suggest that sponsors of the culture of Carl Lewis and Linford Christie, representing the majority who do not cheat, could markedly reduce the "ages of sin" for Ben Johnson and his entourage by refusing to run against him in these specially staged spectacles.

Presumably Mrs Davison's daughters were assured in their childhood that cheats never prosper. Do Mrs Davison and her "disgraced" daughters now aver that cheats should prosper? Yours truly,
ARTHUR GOLD,
49 Fern Mount Drive,
Wetstone, N20.

Feeding the scrum

From Sir George Fitzgerald
Sir, The last time I played rugby football (some fifty years ago), the scrum half had to put the ball straight into the centre of the scrum. Now he can feed his own scrum, which has completely altered the game.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE FITZGERALD,
Cohn's Farm House,
55 High Street, Durrington,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Football planning

From Mr Chris Shepley
Sir, The role of local planning authorities in the provision of football stadiums, raised again by the chief executive of the Football League (today's March 16) has yet to be examined in detail. Mr Sandford asked for a presumption in favour of requests for planning permission involving football clubs — a somewhat sweeping proposition by any standards. No doubt, with his local authority experience, he will be aware of the pitfalls along this road, some of which Lord Justice Taylor described in his report.

The Royal Town Planning Institute, in its evidence to the Hillsborough inquiry, did express the view that planning authorities should act in a constructive and imaginative manner to assist clubs seeking to redevelop or relocate their grounds. As an experienced football watcher, I am very keen to see facilities improved for both safety and comfort.

But hold hard. Many existing grounds are quite well located. A site close to a town centre and its network of public transport facilities enables the young and the car-free supporter easily to attend. The green-field sites so widely and carelessly advocated may be realistically accessible only by car — not an environmentally friendly option (even ignoring the conversion of green areas to grey car parks) and not one likely to appeal to a substantial number of supporters.

Which brings me to my second point. The enthusiasm of taking into account supporters' views, which was so evident in the aftermath of Hillsborough, has noticeably faded. This is of paramount importance; and it will be found that supporters are concerned not only with convenience and practicality but with tradition and habit. Do not underestimate the importance of these emotional, seemingly irrational, views, nor imagine that the tidy logic of the relocation option will overcome the attachment of

SPORTS LETTERS

Solidarity forgotten

From Mr Richard Tracey, MP
for Sutton (Conservative)

Sir, I was frankly amazed to read reports (March 23) of negative comments by Denis Howell, MP about Manchester's bid to host the Olympic Games. I share the dismay of my successor as sports minister, Colin Moynihan, about this and its timing just as decisions are being made on the International Olympic Committee.

When Mr Howell was leading Birmingham's similar bid four years ago, he expected solidarity of support from the rest of the country and, as minister, I felt that support at home and abroad as did other colleagues in Government. I remember discussing with him at the IOC meeting in Lausanne how much comments in the Press and elsewhere are monitored by IOC members. I fear that on this occasion he has critically forgotten the need for solidarity in the national interest.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD TRACEY,
House of Commons, SW1.

Change of tune

From Mr John I. Disley
Sir, The Princess Royal has proposed that English sports teams should adopt the inspirational "Land of Hope and Glory" as their anthem rather than "God Save the Queen".

As a Welshman I would applaud such a change because I have been infuriated over the years by the arrogance of the English in appropriating the British anthem. Let the English find their own song.

At a sporting fixture we can have "God Save the Queen" played first as a mark of respect to visiting royalty or first as the national anthem, followed by the anthems of the two sides, with the home team's last.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DISLEY,
(former captain of Welsh and British athletic teams),
Hampton House,
Upper Sunbury Road,
Hampton, Middlesex.

From Mr Andrew Morris
Sir, Since "God Save the Queen" is the British national anthem, rather than merely the English, it should actually have been sung twice at Murrayfield.

If this is not combative enough in spirit for the organisers of rugby internationals, then both teams should be represented by something different, which can represent a particular national characteristic. Scotland has a wealth of material in this respect, but I would suggest that England is bereft of well-known national songs. "Land of Hope and Glory" and "Rule Britannia" could be regarded as much Scottish as they are English (and Welsh, for that matter). What England needs is a latter-day Agincourt Song.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW MORRIS,
Director of Music,
Bedford School,
Burnaby Road, Bedford.

Need for race between equals

From Mrs Vivien Coombs

Sir, With another Boat Race due on Saturday, am I the only person bored by watching a race between two crews of such disparate standards. For the last decade Oxford have included a high proportion of post-graduate rowers of international status recruited in order to win the race (some of whose unprofessional behaviour is well documented in the book *True Blue* about the mutiny of the mainly American crew of 1987).

As long as we have on the one

hand mature "professionals" and on the other relatively inexperienced amateurs, then the outcome is tediously predictable.

Rowing is one of the few civilised sports left; wouldn't it be more exciting to have a race between equals, i.e. the undergraduates of the two universities, in the spirit of the sportsmanship as was originally intended?

Yours faithfully,
VIVIEN COOMBS,
8 Clarion House,
Moreton Place, SW1.

Bannockburn spirit

From Mr Simon Henderson

Sir, For a Scot living in England it is always a rather tedious problem commenting on the old rivalry between the two annual rugby internationals. However, whatever the merits of Scotland's victory (and it did appear well deserved to me) I think it is a little unfair for "those" to suggest (leading article, March 19) that Scotland have been "playing the referee" as far back as Bannockburn and that the disparity of pits by Bruce's army to frustrate the advance of the English for "might not be held to constitute fair play".

This judgement appears to assume that the Battle of Bannockburn was an even-handed contest (at Murrayfield there were 15 men on each side). The Scottish army in fact numbered only some 5,000 to 6,000 men, most of whom were spearmen assembled in four schiltrons — bar some 500 light horse.

Against this was ranged Edward III's mediaeval host of more than 20,000 men. The army included some 3,000 expert Welsh longbowmen, but particularly 2,500 heavy cavalry — considered the ultimate deterrent of the day. The Scots were clearly heavily outnumbered.

The fact that the English lost

was due not so much to the digging of the pits for their forwards to fall into" in the New York Times, to obscure the avenue of advance (useful strategem as this was) but to the disastrous tactical blunder of transferring the English cavalry across the Bannockburn, this left them drawn up on the flank of Balgukidder, bounded as it was on three sides by the tidal Fife stream and Bannockburn.

Bruce, a better tactician than the English captains, quickly saw that they had confined themselves on too narrow a front, with no room to manoeuvre or indeed to engage a large part of the army, as it transpired. He also realised that on the early morning of midsummer day (1314) the Fife stream and Bannockburn were impassable due to the half tide. Bruce pressed home these perceived advantages by attacking resolutely, forcing the English back against the streams, and secured the resultant "land" as at Murrayfield) unforeseen victory.

Never mind, perhaps next year it will be Flodden revisited.

Yours sincerely,
SIMON HENDERSON,
10 Gardner Road,
Guildford, Surrey.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 01-782 5046

Matches played 24th March 1990

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England's ambitions held up by rain

From Alan Lee
 Cricket Correspondent
 Port of Spain, Trinidad

Graham Gooch suffered pain and purgatory at the Queen's Park Oval yesterday, even as his England team stood on the threshold of an unimaginable place in cricket history.

England were firmly launched on the path to their victory target of 151 in this third Cable and Wireless Test match when Gooch took a blow on the left hand from Moseley and was sent to hospital for x-rays.

The captain returned, his hand bruised but not broken, in time to see the dream of a 2-0 advantage over West Indies — a position no team in the world has enjoyed since 1975 — cruelly jeopardised by the weather. Heavy, unseasonal rain started at lunchtime and was evidently unwilling to stop.

On this of all days, it never seemed likely that glory would be achieved without pain, mental if not physical and England experienced plenty as they navigated towards their unexpected destination.

Not since 1957, when Peter May's team won the last two Tests of a five-match series, has any England side beaten West Indies twice in succession. To do so here, when the initial odds had seemed so enormously against them, cannot adequately be explained.

The first obstacle caused them no great anxiety as they were made to wait only 14 balls before taking the one remaining West Indies wicket. Almost inevitably, it was the property of Devon Malcolm, whose marathon efforts on Tuesday had restored England's authority.

At the start of this tour, few would have believed that Malcolm could develop the stamina to bowl 25 overs in a day, whatever one's reservations about his wicket-taking potential at Test match level. Now, he summoned reserves of energy to charged in again from the northern end and it was not long before Walsh was driven onto the back foot and beaten by one which kept crisscrossing low.

Malcolm finished with six for 77 for the innings, 10 for 137 in the match. In his brief and hitherto anonymous first-class career he had never before taken 10 wickets in a match.

The target was ostensibly 151 in 88 overs when Gooch and Larkins went to the middle. However, both teams knew that West Indies were highly unlikely to meet the overs requirement before daylight, disregarding the prospect of rain. Time was not unlimited and a degree of positive thinking was essential.

They could hardly have had a better start. Bishop's opening over was frighteningly fast but Gooch negotiated it admirably and when Am-

SCOREBOARD FROM TRINIDAD

England won toss

WEST INDIES

First Innings

		50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450	500	550	600	650	700	750	800	850	900	950	1000
C G Greenidge	c Stewart b Malcolm	1	0	1	21	5															
D L Haynes	c Lamb b Small	0	0	1	48	34															
R B Richardson	c Russell b Fraser	8	10	1	54	36															
C A Best	c Lamb b Fraser	10	1	1	10	10															
R P Dujon	c Lamb b Small	98	11	237	139																
A L Logie	c Lamb b Fraser	32	2	71	67																
C L Hooper	c Russell b Capel	0	0	0	0	0															
E A Moseley	c Russell b Malcolm	0	0	0	0	0															
E E L Ambrose	c Russell b Malcolm	16	1	102	85																
I R Bishop	c Malcolm	11	1	33	16																
C A Walsh	not out	11	1	33	16																
Extras (R 4, N 7)		11	1	33	16																
Total (85.1 overs, 316 balls)		189																			

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-5, 3-32, 4-27, 5-25, 6-82, 7-83, 8-103, 9-177.

BOWLING: Small 17-4-31-0; Malcolm 25-2-85-4 (nb 4); Fraser 12.1-2-41-3 (nb 3); Capel 15-2-53-1 (nb 1).

Second Innings

		50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450	500	550	600	650	700	750	800	850	900	950	1000
C G Greenidge	c Fraser	42	4	182	124																
D L Haynes	c Lamb b Malcolm	45	4	159	89																
R B Richardson	c Gooch b Small	34	4	123	61																
C A Best	c Lamb b Malcolm	0	0	0	0																
R P Dujon	c Russell b Malcolm	15	1	96	59																
A L Logie	c Larkins b Malcolm	20	3	97	52																
C L Hooper	run out	10	0	82	50																
E A Moseley	c Lamb b Malcolm	15	1	42	31																
E E L Ambrose	c Russell b Fraser	18	3	56	43																
I R Bishop	not out	15	0	64	34																
C A Walsh	c Lamb b Malcolm	1	0	14	10																
Extras (D 2, B 13, W 1, N 12)		28																			
Total		228																			

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-86, 2-100, 3-100, 4-100, 5-142, 6-167, 7-200, 8-200, 9-284.

BOWLING: Malcolm 26.2-4-77-6 (nb 7, w 1); Small 21-4-56-1; Capel 13-3-30 (nb 2); Fraser 24-4-61-2 (nb 3).

ENGLAND

First Innings

		50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450	500	550	600	650	700	750	800	850	900	950	1000
G A Gooch	c Dujon b Bishop	84	3	308	253																
W Larkins	c Dujon b Ambrose	54	3	242	154																
A J Stewart	c Dujon b Ambrose	9	0	53	60																
A J Lamb	b Bishop	32	3	122	81																
A Smith	c Dujon b Moseley	0	0	40	28																
R Bailey	c Logie b Moseley	0	0	2	1																
D J Capel	c Moseley b Ambrose	40	3	215	124																
R P Dujon	c Best b Walsh	15	1	96	59																
G C Small	c Bishop	0	0	4	4																
A R C Fraser	c Hooper b Ambrose	11	0	83	58																
D E Malcolm	not out	0	0	20	8																
Extras (D 10, B 9, W 3, N 18)		38																			
Total (137.2 overs)		288																			

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-112, 2-125, 3-195, 4-214, 5-214, 6-214, 7-243, 8-244, 9-284.

BOWLING: Ambrose 36.2-5-59-4 (nb 4); Bishop 31-6-80-3; Walsh 22-4-45-1 (nb 10, w 1); Hooper 18-5-28-0; Moseley 30-5-70-2 (nb 8, w 2).

Second Innings

		50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450	500	550	600	650	700	750	800	850	900	950	1000
G A Gooch	retired hurt	15	2	53	28																
W Larkins	c Dujon b Moseley	7	0	39	24																
A J Stewart	not out	12	2	36	17																
A J Lamb	not out	5																			
Extras (D 1, B 2, N 2)		5																			
Total (1 wk, 15.1 overs)		73																			

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-27.

BOWLING: Bishop 7-1-21-0; Ambrose 3-0-15-0 (nb 1); Moseley 5-0-22-1 (nb 1); Walsh 1-0-15-0.

Umpires: C Camberbatch and L Barker.

REMAINING TEST MATCHES: April 5-10: Fourth Test, Barbados, April 12-17: Fifth Test, Antigua.

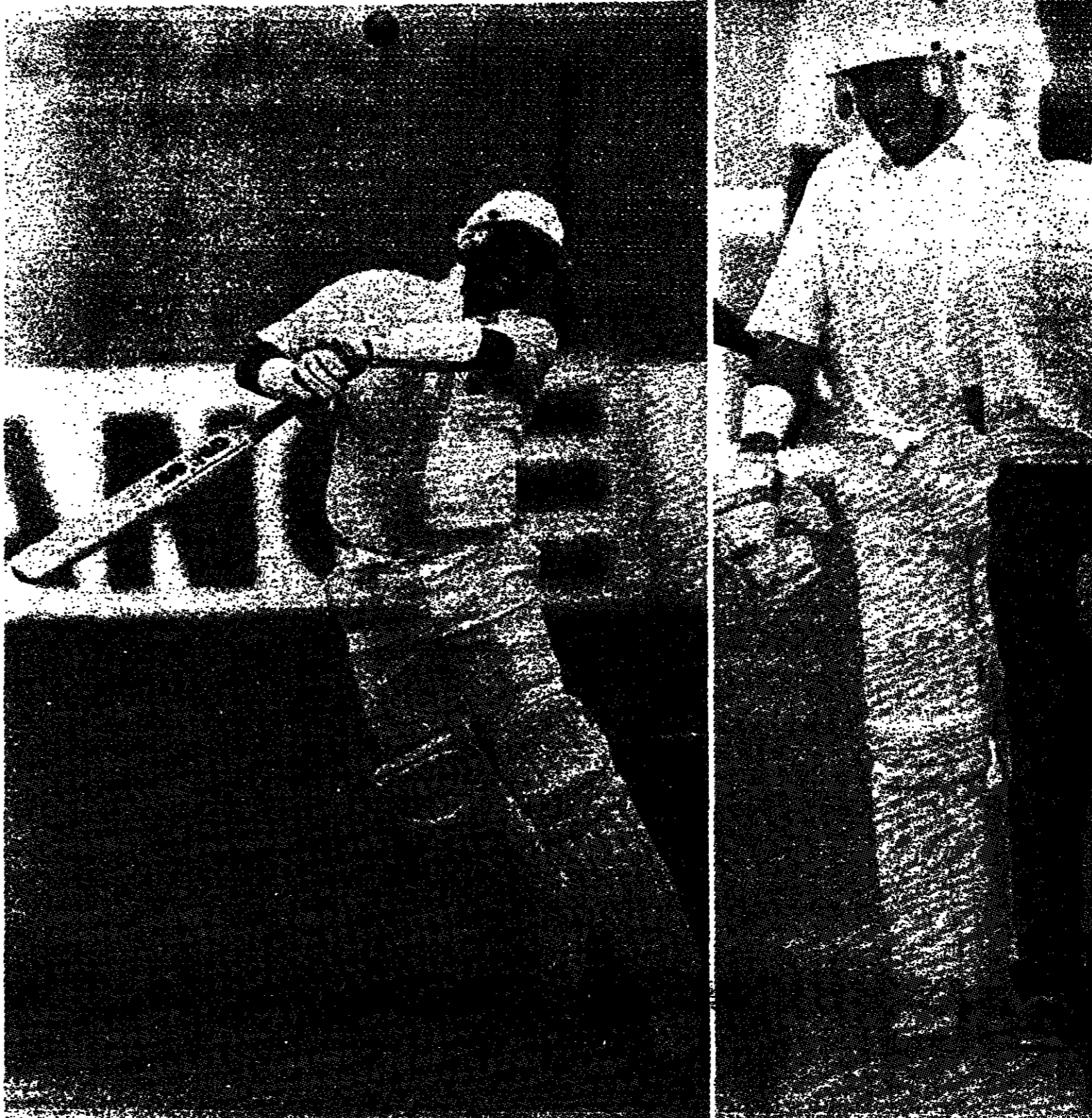
PREVIOUS RESULTS: First Test (Kingston, Jamaica): England won by nine wickets. Second Test (Georgetown, Guyana): Match abandoned.

brose, from the pavilion end, over-pitched, Gooch drove him straight for four.

On Saturday, Gooch had imprisoned himself in the theory of crease occupation, hardly playing a shot in anger during his 6½ hours stay. Now, he saw the requirement in a different light. When Bishop dropped short, Gooch hooked him handsomely for four and after six overs, England had sliced 25 runs off the target.

It was the advent of Moseley which stalled the sprint and restored animated belief to the West Indians. This has been an impressive Test debut by the 32-year-old Barbadian. His bowling approach may not look menacing but his speed is deceptive; he skids the ball through in the

Gooch was taken to the local hospital, only a hundred yards from the ground, where



Sport of pain: Gooch is struck on the hand by a ball from Moseley (left) and retires hurt after advice from Lawrie Brown, the England physio

The tensions of the chase



David Gower

The former England captain reports on the third Test match in Port of Spain

THERE is nothing like an average-sized target on the last day of a cricket match to test the mental strength of all concerned.

There are admittedly few opportunities in any Test match for those involved truly to relax, but whenever the situation arises that a side needs between 150 and 200 to win, both sides become aware that there is no scope left for mistakes, and it is up to every individual involved to take complete responsibility for his actions through the day.

For the bowling side this should mean that every member of the attack is aware that he cannot afford to take his time to adjust the radar and find the correct line and

length. Slip fielders start to worry about the chances that might come their way and even long leg and third man must ponder the possibilities of one bobbling away from their hands and into the boundary boards.

For the batsmen there is always the threat that wickets will fall, and it is sometimes easy to adopt the frame of

mind that suggests that if one should fail the next man in will make amends. There are obvious dangers if everyone were to adopt this relaxed approach. Just in case anyone should interpret that amiss, let me assure you there is no one in the England dressing room here to whom I would ascribe that failing.

Indeed, at the start of the England innings, it was the West Indians who lapsed. Bishop surviving overnight for pace and fire and sacrificing control, and though he tested the courage of the England openers, he failed to follow Malcolm's strategy of aiming at the stumps. With Ambrose also erring it meant that Haynes was forced to shuffle

his field, and he soon replaced Ambrose with Moseley, who struck the first two blows, the first the dismissal of Larkins, the second the enforced retirement of Gooch.

Lamb and Stewart took the honours for positive thinking and the latter, especially, refused to be intimidated by some more hostile stuff from Moseley, cutting and pulling to great effect.

When the rains came at lunch, England were winning the psychological battle to the extent that Desmond Haynes, sensing the game slipping away from him, could be clearly seen venting his frustrations on the England batsmen.

Robson on the road to recovery

By Ian Ross

BRYAN Robson, the captain of Manchester United and England, is poised to make an unexpected return to senior football this weekend.

Robson, who underwent surgery to repair a badly damaged groin muscle in January, played his first game in more than three months on Tuesday, when he was included in United's reserve team for a Central League fixture against Coventry City at Highfield Road.

Robson's appearance came just 48 hours after it had been announced that his recovery programme had suffered a setback in training.

If there is no adverse re-

action to his 90-minute run-out, Robson may well be included in United's senior squad for Saturday's game against Coventry at Old Trafford.

However, regardless of whether he plays for the first team or A team this weekend, it does seem highly probable that he will now be available for the FA Cup semi-final against Oldham Athletic, of the second division, at Maine Road on Sunday week.

"We shall have to wait a little while before we can assess Bryan's position," said Alex Ferguson, the United manager. "It was his first game since before Christmas, and it is certain that he will be feeling sore and tired. Having

said that, the signs are very encouraging."

Robson, who has missed United's last 17 games and also the England international against Brazil at Wembley last night, conceded that it will take him some time to regain full match fitness.

"My legs still need strengthening and there has been some muscle wastage," he said. "It is simply a case of taking things day by day."

"I had not intended to play the full 90 minutes on Tuesday but it all went so well I was happy to carry on. I was pleased with my touch considering it was only my fourth session actually kicking the ball."

Neil Webb, Robson's England international colleague, made an appearance in the same game and will definitely play in Saturday's League fixture.

Webb, who cost United £1.5 million from Nottingham Forest in the summer, had been out since he ruptured an Achilles tendon playing for England against Sweden last September.

He was substitute for United at Southampton last Saturday, which was his first senior outing in six months.

Robson and Webb both had a hand in United's first-half goals at Highfield Road but still finished on the losing side, Coventry winning 4-2.

Texas countdown for the Masters

From a Special Correspondent, Houston

NICK Faldo, the Masters champion, will use the Independent Insurance Agent Open starting here today to fine tune his game before next week's defence of his title at Augusta National.

Faldo, who remains second to Australia's Greg Norman in the latest Sony rankings, was not satisfied with his form in the Nestle Invitational in Orlando last week, although following a three-week break he finished equal thirteenth, only eight strokes behind the winner, Robert Gamez, who has decided to take a rest this week.

"I didn't drive or putt very well so I've been working on those things for the past couple of days," Faldo said yesterday. "I was blocking my drives but they're a lot better now. It's early in the year and I hadn't had a lot of practice until last week."

Faldo will meet his coach, Dave Leadbetter, next Monday for a final examination of the state of his game before he gets down to serious work at Augusta.

Before then, however, he must tackle a strong Houston field on the picturesque trellised course at the Woodlands. Faldo does not have a good record here. His best finish has been equal fifteenth and last year he came 42nd, just seven days before his triumph in the Masters.

Despite his past results, however, Faldo claims to like

the course, which measures 7,042 yards from the championship tees. "There's a good variety of holes and it's not a bad test at all," he said.

Faldo heads a strong European contingent which also includes Seve Ballesteros, Ian Woosnam, José-Maria Olazábal, Roman Rafferty and Sandy Lyle, all of whom will go on to Augusta.

Ballesteros missed the cut in Orlando after taking nine strokes at the par four 11th hole during the first round, followed by an eight at the sixth hole the following day.

"It's difficult to play well when you're so far from making the cut, but I played the final 12 holes in three under par on the Friday, which is not too bad," Ballesteros said. "I just want to play well this week and pick up some confidence for the Masters."

Woosnam, equal 29th in Orlando, is another working hard on his swing. "I'm trying to get my draw back for the Masters," he said. "I've been struggling to draw the ball for the past couple of years."

Rafferty, the leader of the 1989 European Order of Merit, and fellow Ryder Cup player Gordon Brand, jun., have been added to the field for the Benson and Hedges International Open at St Mellion, Cornwall, from May 4 to 7. Brand won the tournament last year when it was held at Fulford, York.

Half the World Cup referees are unfit

TIRRENIA, Italy (Reuter) — At least half the 36 referees chosen for the World Cup finals in Italy are not fit enough.

Sepp Blatter, the FIFA secretary-general, said yesterday.

Blatter said at the end of a three-day training course for the referees selected for the 52-match tournament: "There are shortcomings in the physical condition of some of the referees and those concerned have been told. Now they have two months to get themselves fully fit for the start of the World Cup."

Michel Vautrot, of France, who has been widely tipped to officiate at the final in Rome on July 9, and George Smith, of Scotland, did not take part in fitness tests including strenuous distance running at

the Tirrenia training ground on Tuesday because of injury problems.

Blatter said the referees had been told to come down hard on players who misbehave during World Cup matches and even on celebrations after scoring goals. "They will send off players who